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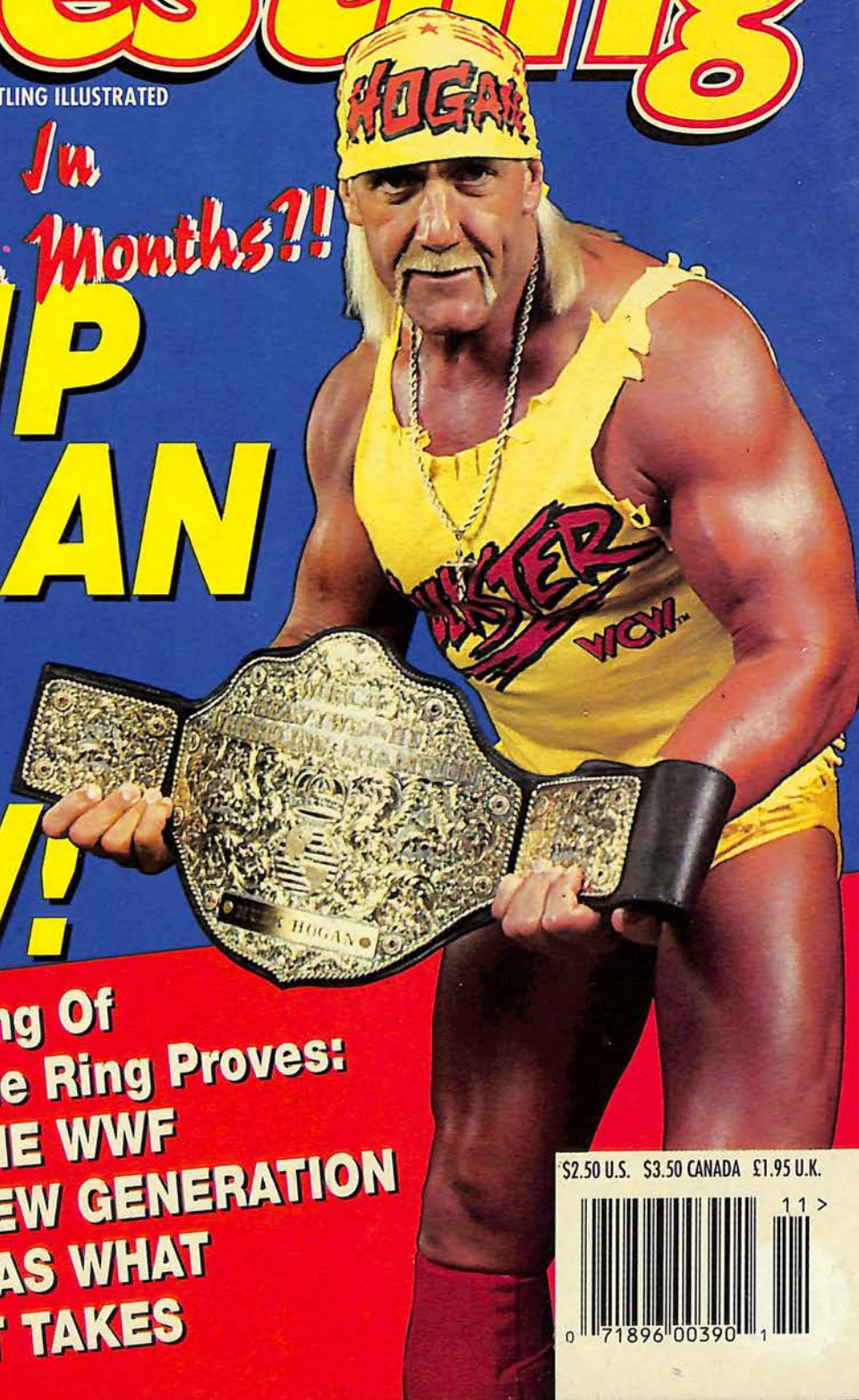
# W Inside Wrestling

NOVEMBER 1995

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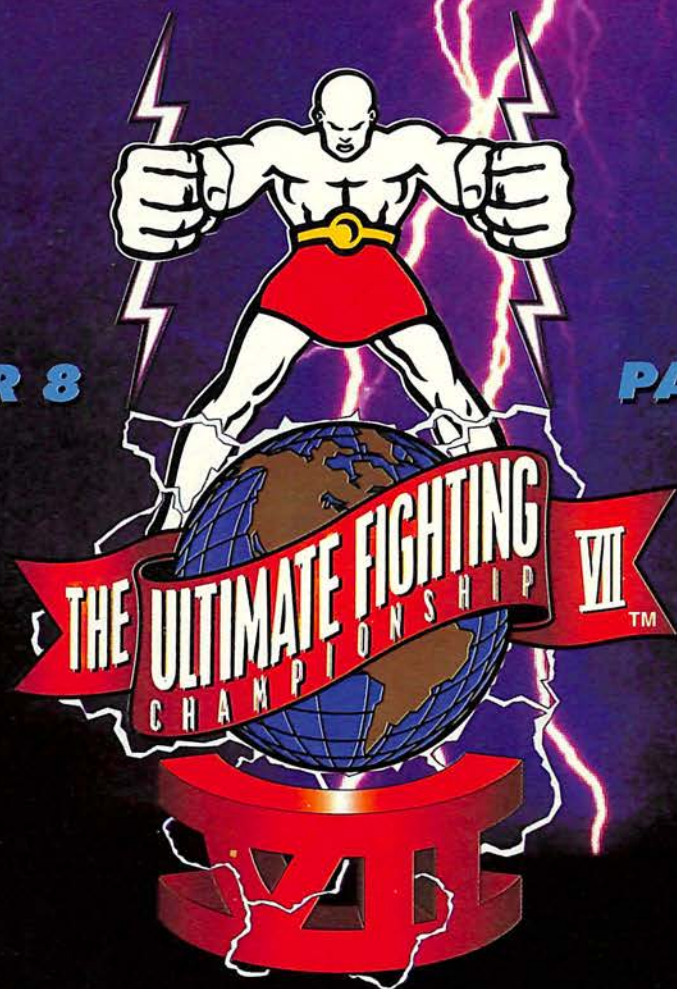
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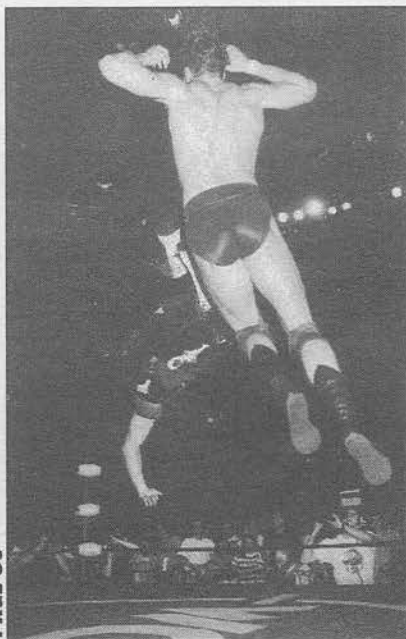
November 1995

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# Sincerely Yours

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## DISSING "THE KING"

I just read Jim Imbruglia's ridiculous letter "Respect The

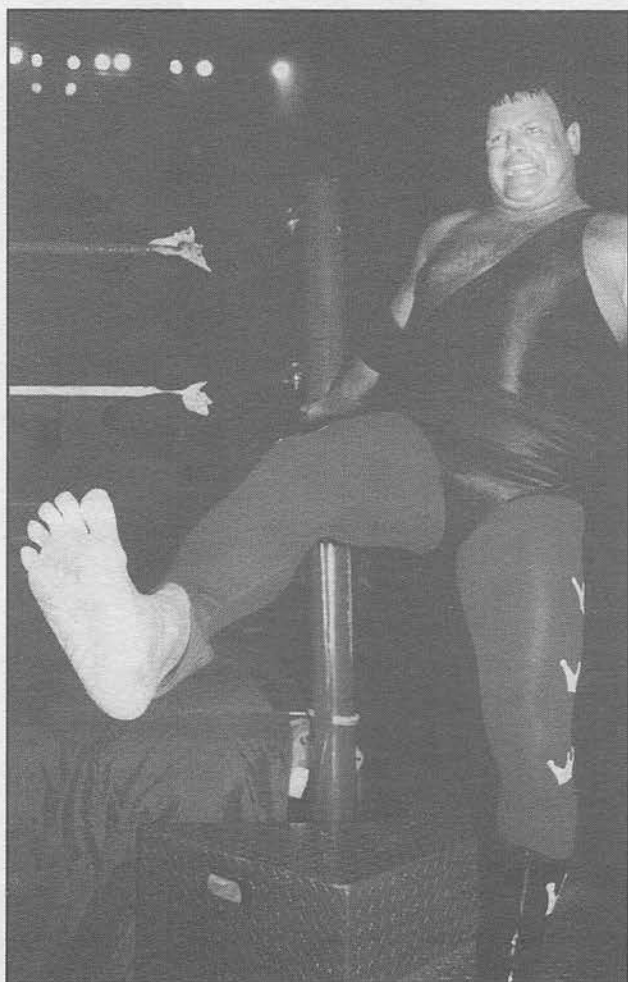
King" (August 1995), and I can't help but wonder why people still cheer for Jerry Lawler. The man is gutter slime. His WWF low-lights include faking an injury to avoid a confrontation with Bret Hart, making fun of handicapped children, and refusing to wash his feet before a "kiss my foot" match

against Bret Hart. This is a man we should respect?

If the "Burger King" wants respect from us WWF fans, he should start acting respectful and not like a pompous buffoon. Until this

impossible feat occurs, Imbruglia and Lawler's idiot fans should keep their mouths shut.

**NICHOLAS ACCETTA-EVANS  
Brooklyn, NY**



Jerry Lawler has occasionally tried to get WWF fans to smell his filthy feet. Reader Nicholas Accetta-Evans thinks "The King" is worthy of no one's cheers

## NOT FOND OF THE 'FONS

I am a big ECW fan, but over the past few weeks I have noticed a big change. Shane Douglas has brought forth a so-called "troubleshooting" referee named Bill Alfonso.

Bill Alfonso has a totally different perspective on hardcore wrestling. Every time a wrestler does something he doesn't



Troubleshooting referee Bill Alfonso gets in Hack Myers' face before an ECW match. Reader Patrick Dowling thinks Alfonso has no business trying to maintain order in that federation.

approve of, Alfonso comes running down the aisle, jumps in the ring, and grabs the microphone to explain to everyone how he wants the match to be contested and officiated and how everything he says should be taken as gospel.

Bill Alfonso doesn't have a place in ECW. He is just a wimpy little thing who claims that if the wrestlers don't follow the rules, the federation will be shut down. I hope that someone does beat the heck out of him to teach him a lesson.

**PATRICK DOWLING  
Brigantine, NJ**

## INSPIRED BY GREATNESS

You can add another name to the list of "Hulkamaniacs." What does Hulk Hogan have to do to prove that he's the greatest asset to this great sport? I don't have enough paper to list all of his achievements. Granted, he has done certain things in the past that have been questionable or maybe downright stupid. But when I hear or read about how Hogan only cares about himself, I know that is wrong.

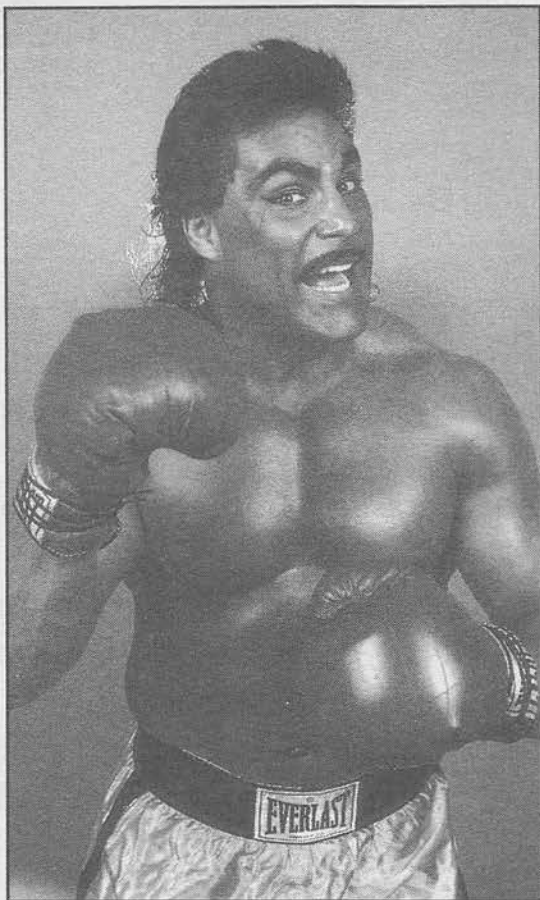
Ten years ago, he had enough time after a match to talk with a 13-year-old boy and his grandfather. That boy never forgot what he said to him: "Always believe in yourself and you'll never go wrong."

Well, that 13-year-old boy never forgot what Hogan said, and he pursued his dream of becoming a disc jockey at a radio station. It was a goal he had set for himself, and by believing in himself and working hard for a long time, that boy attained his goal. Now, 10 years later, that "boy" is a disc jockey. But until now, I never had the chance to say thank you to the man who inspired me. Thanks, Hulk!

SCOTT BARNARD  
Chillicothe, MO

## DECISION TIME

Johnny B. Badd better make up his mind what sport he wants to compete in ("It's Badd For Wrestling ... Johnny B. Must Kayo His Boxing Obsession!" August 1995). He may have been a



Johnny B. Badd still puts the boxing gloves on now and then, sometimes in the wrestling ring. Reader Carl Lykens would like to see him focus only on his wrestling career.

Golden Gloves champion before he was a professional wrestler, but that should not have any bearing on his career now. That's like saying that since I was a member of my high school's physics honor society, I should be splitting atoms in my basement right now.

Johnny B. Badd's boxing background helps him some in the wrestling ring, and that's great, but he needs to realize that he is a wrestler now. He's not the only wrestler who had a great career in another sport. Big Van Vader, Diesel, and Randy Savage all played other sports, and they all have put their pasts behind them so they could become great *wrestlers*.

I say that if Johnny B. wants to box so bad, he should retire from

(Continued on page 58)

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# REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By Stu Saks

Brandi Mankiewicz is frantic. A huge pile of printed data has just fallen on the floor and her fists slam against her desk with force a 115-pounder would not, under normal circumstances, be able to generate.

"[Expletive]," she shouts, using language that might make her uncle Matt Brock blush.

When I hired Brandi as associate editor less than one year ago, I never told her that one of her job responsibilities would be to spearhead the effort to generate the annual "*Pro Wrestling Illustrated* 500." She might not have taken the job had she known.

"I spent four [expletive] hours arranging that information," she shouted. "[Expletive]."

"Ya gonna cry?" asked an unusually sarcastic Dave Lenker for all to hear.

Brandi shot a glare at the managing editor that, if converted into physical force, would have knocked Mabel on his butt. She grabbed the scattered papers of the floor and went about her business. The wrestler who ends up in the number-one position should be so determined.

The fifth annual "*PWI* 500" (assuming Brandi doesn't go over the edge like her pile of papers) will be completed within the month and available to the public on October 3 as part of a special Winter 1995 edition of the magazine. Unlike past "*PWI* 500s," which carried our ranking of the top 500 wrestlers in the sport along with unrelated features, this year's 88-page edition will be solely devoted to the "500" theme. Don't miss it; Brandi would be awfully angry if you did!

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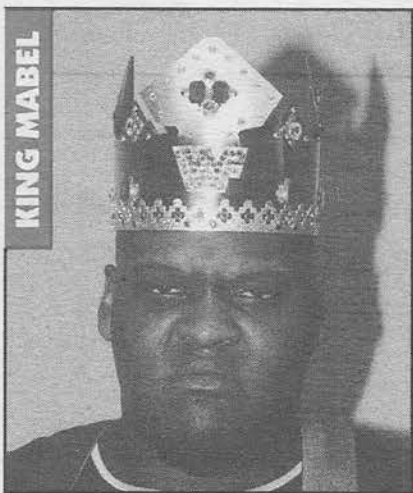
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# NAMES MA

**N**OW THAT **MABEL** is the WWF King of the Ring, WWF World champion **Diesel** is gearing up for the upcoming challenge from the huge, 503-pound man on a mission. Mabel's mission is to win



KING MABEL

Diesel's belt and "break that bad arm of his so he can never wrestle again," he told me before a recent WWF card.

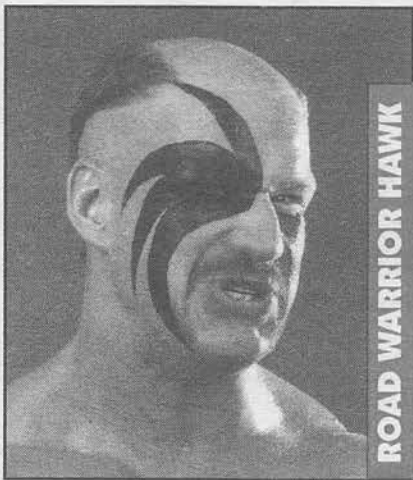
I asked Diesel how he would prepare for Mabel. "I'm working out with a heavybag every day so I can increase my punching power," he said. "I'll have to knock that sucker out to get him off his feet."

Have you noticed that since **Ric Flair** was reinstated by WCW, he has not had one singles match against WCW World champion **Hulk Hogan**? "Hulk won't give me a title shot," Flair told me. "I have put in a dozen requests, and I keep getting turned down."

When I asked Hulk about this situation, he said, "Flair had his shots, I need to move on to some new challenges!" After finishing his feud with **Big Van Vader**—assum-

ing he retains the belt—Hulk will probably be wrestling this new mysterious giant who keeps popping up at WCW cards, challenging Hulk and **The Renegade**. Flair, by the way, will have headed to Japan for a series of matches by the time you're reading this.

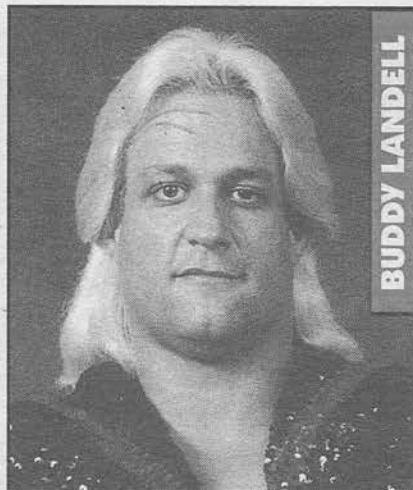
There is a lady in the North Carolina-based Pro Wrestling Federation who goes by the name of **Madd Maxxine**. She has defeated no less than six men in the federation and is demanding that she be listed in this year's "Pro Wrestling Illustrated 500," which goes on sale October 3. As you recall, **Miss Texas** made the 1993 "PWI 500" by virtue of several victories over **Jamie Dundee** in



ROAD WARRIOR HAWK

the USWA ... **Road Warrior Hawk** is negotiating to bring his Japanese tag team partner, **Kensuke Sasaki**, to WCW. Sasaki was in WCW several years ago as a singles competitor ... Seen backstage at WWF TV tapings: **Johnny Gunn** and **Rasta the Voodoo Mon**.

Smoky Mountain heavyweight champion **Buddy Landell** recently



BUDDY LANDELL

went to the board of directors of that organization complaining that **Steve Armstrong** has gotten way too many title matches. Smoky officials agreed, but to Landell's disgust, they signed Steve's brother **Brad** to a series of title matches. "First I kill off their old man, **Bob**, then Steve, and now I have another Armstrong to contend with!" Landell bellowed. "One family should only be allowed so many title shots, and the Armstrongs have exceeded their limit!"

**Killer Kowalski** has been hired by the WWF in a very unusual capacity. "I check out the rookies before they get into the ring," he explained. "If a kid signs for a match and has no idea what the heck he's doing, I won't let him step in the ring. No one wants to see anyone seriously hurt at this level of their careers. Once they get their experience, they have to look out for themselves in there!"

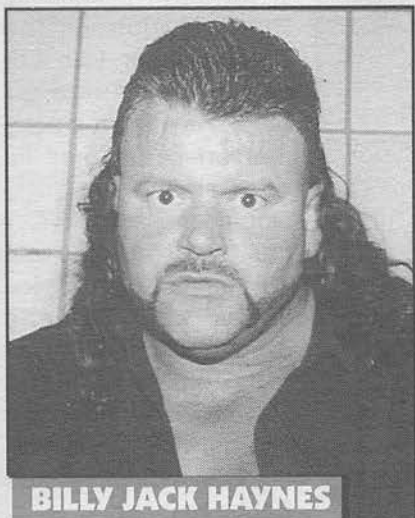
I still cannot believe **Bunkhouse Buck** and **Dick Slater** beat **Harlem Heat** for the WCW World tag team belts. **Sister Sherri** makes me laugh when she com-

# KIN' NEWS

By Bill Apter

plains that **Col. Robert Parker** interfered and cost her men the victory. Hey, Sister, how many times did you save Harlem Heat's championship butts! ... **"Taskmaster"** **Kevin Sullivan's** newest team is made up of **The Shark** and **Kamala** ... A new wrestling organization by the name of **Coast To Coast Wrestling** is running cards in the suburbs of New York City, with **The Iron Sheik**, **Koko B. Ware**, **Jim Neidhart**, and **Typhoon** headlining. **Missy Hyatt** has been signed as a broadcaster for the organization's TV tapings.

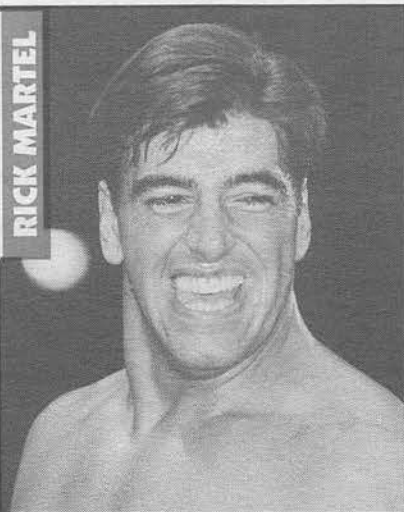
**Brian Christopher** lost the USWA Southern belt to veteran



**BILLY JACK HAYNES**

**Billy Jack Haynes** on June 26. "Beating that little weasel was so easy," Haynes boasted after the win. "This title is just the first of many, in many different federations, that I will get my hands on in 1995!" ... Midwest Territorial Wrestling heavyweight champion **Marty Jannetty** says he has accepted a challenge from NWA/UFC champion **Dan Severn**.

**RICK MARTEL**



"I realize I could get seriously hurt since this guy is one of the toughest men in the world," said Jannetty. "But on the other hand, it would be some notch in my belt to have a victory over him."

We hope Mexico's **Super Astro** will be back in action sometime soon. Astro suffered a serious injury several months ago when he catapulted off the ropes toward his opponent outside the ring, and crashed into a chair instead. He suffered severe lacerations to his head and his shoulders and went into shock ... **Rick Martel** is back in his native Canada and feuding with **"The Natural"** **Don Callis** ... **The Dudley Brothers—Dudley and Snot**—have invaded ECW. They're feuding with **The Pit Bulls**.

WWF World tag team champions **Owen Hart** and **Yokozuna** have been arguing during almost all their title defenses. "It will pass," **Jim Cornette** assured me. "It's nothing serious. I've managed dozens of tag teams and have seen this happen time and time

again. Not to worry!" ... **Jacob** and **Eli Blu** have gotten a staunch "no" from WWF President **Jack Tunney** regarding them getting a title shot against **Yoko** and **Owen**. Tunney says their win-loss record just hasn't been good enough lately ... **Rad Radford** told me, "It's gonna be the year of 'Radfordmania!'" Within the next few months, my name will be on the tongue of every wrestling fan in



**RAD RADFORD**

the world. Rad is what's happenin' in 1995!"

Hot new tag team on tour in Japan: **Dean Malenko** and **"Das Wunderkind"** **Alex Wright** ... **Rick** and **Scott Steiner** continue to feud with **The Great Muta** and **Tadao Yasuda** ... **Waylon Mercy** is using the classic sleeperhold for a finisher. I always liked that finisher, and Mercy really applies it well ... **Shane Douglas** says he is still negotiating with WWF, but as of press time, no Shane sightings in the federation.

That's all for now. I'll see you at the matches! □

**T**HE CHAMPIONS OF WCW and the WWF will probably never meet in the ring, but the federations themselves appear headed for a showdown that could be nearly as monumental—against each other in the same weekly television slot.

WCW has begun developing a wrestling program that will likely run directly against *WWF Monday Night Raw* on Monday nights. WCW executives boast that the show will often be live and originate from various arenas across the country. The yet-untitled show could debut before this magazine hits the newsstand, and for the first time forces wrestling fans to make a choice between the promotions.

In the past, there has never been any scheduling conflict between the WWF and WCW. Current time slots in the New York market have the WWF airing on Saturday and Sunday mornings and again on Monday night. WCW airs early and late on Saturday nights and occasionally during weekday evenings with *Clash of the Champions* cards.

The playing field has been even, because both are on networks that are part of a basic cable television package. The WWF airs on the USA cable network, and WCW can be seen on TBS. Both federations also have syndicated shows that are picked up by local affiliates.

But the endless quest for ratings points and desired advertising revenues by the WWF and WCW has never been a head-to-head matchup. The bold move is a direct challenge from media mogul Ted Turner, who owns WCW, a couple of professional sports teams, and several television networks. He apparently is also looking at the one-hour TV time slot beginning at 9 p.m. on Mondays.

# ON THE ROAD

With Chris Bernucca

From the standpoints of both television and wrestling, Turner has some things working for him, not the least of which are his deep pockets. WWF head Vince McMahon can cite all of the merchandising revenue numbers and pay-per-view buy rates he wants, but he is monetarily dwarfed by Turner, who is one of the richest men in the world. Turner could buy the WWF at a hundred times its true value and feel it financially about as much as you and I do flipping a quarter into the parkway toll basket.

Turner can dump as much money as he wants into this new venture, and he can give it as much

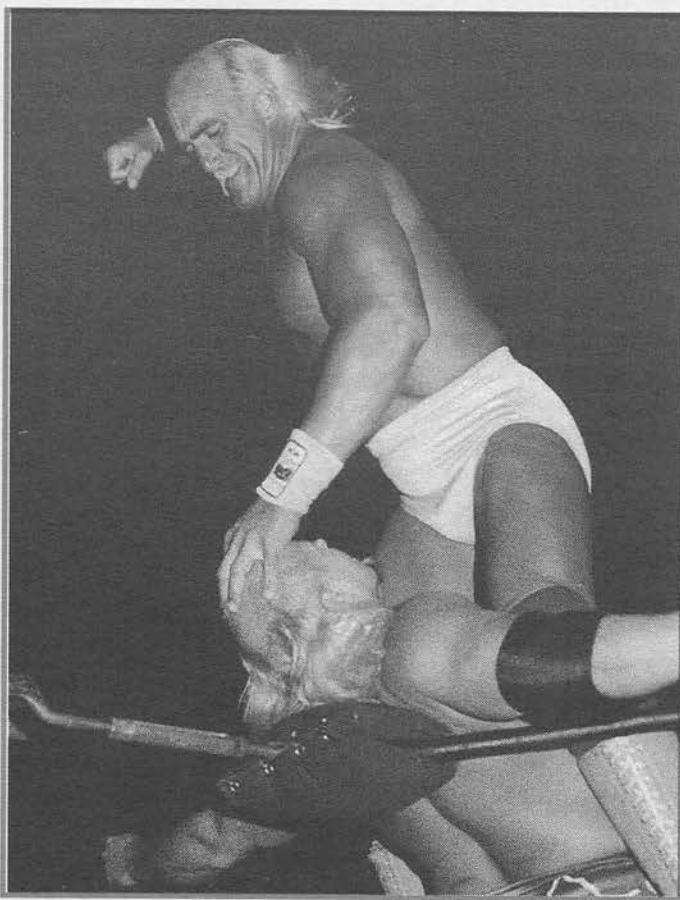
time to succeed as he wants. Since he owns the station on which the show will air, TNT, he doesn't have to concern himself immediately with ratings.

Turner also has the advantage of Hulk Hogan, who is still the biggest draw in the sport and is the only wrestler who commands the attention of the channel surfer. Like it or not, Hogan has a far better reputation among the surface fan than he does among the wrestling cognoscenti. WCW has also spent the last 18 months—and a nice chunk of Turner's cash—raiding the WWF for some of its name players, such as Randy Savage and broadcasters Gene Okerlund and Bobby Heenan.

This is a departure from the norm for Turner, who usually

hires skilled people to run his companies and exhibits a hands-off demeanor. He once actually took a year away from his holdings to compete in the America's Cup yachting competition. He remains the driving force behind the Goodwill Games, despite waning interest and multimillion-dollar debts. During the ninth inning of a scoreless seventh game of the

(Continued on page 59)



The presence of Hulk Hogan on WCW's new program should help. Casual fans might give the show a chance if they see the "Hulkster" on the screen when they are channel surfing.

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**ECW TV TAPE #2 • Features 6 hours of action**  
Snuka vs. Dreamer, Sabu vs. Shane (Brawl) Taz and Sullivan brawl with Bruise Brothers, Sabu vs. Pat Tanaka, Taz & Sullivan vs. Bruise Brothers (Title Change), Sabu vs. Tazmaniac, Douglas & Public Enemy vs. Funk & Crash & Sullivan Plus Pitbull, Cairo, Hawk, Snuka, Mike Awesome, Bad Breed, Sandman and more PLUS tons of other matches and interviews.

**ECW TV TAPE #3 • Features 6 hours of action**  
Tanaka vs. Douglas, Taz vs. JT, Sandman vs. Cairo, Public Enemy vs. Bruise Brothers (Falls count anywhere WILD!!!) Sabu vs. Mike Awesome, Sandman vs. Dreamer, Sabu vs. Terry Funk, Bobby Eaton & Arn Anderson come in!!!! Taz & Sullivan vs. Snuka & Powers PLUS Paul E. Douglas, Pitbull, Hawk, 911, Peaches, Public Enemy, Bruise Brothers and more...

**ECW TV TAPE #4 • Features 6 hours of action**  
Sandman vs. Cairo, Bruise Brothers vs. Public Enemy (Lumberjack match) Funk & Arn vs. Sabu & Eaton, Pitbull vs. Mikey, JT & Bruise Brothers & Dreamer vs. Douglas & Hughes & Public Enemy, Taz vs. Sandman PLUS Too Cold Scorpio, Cactus Jack, Sullivan, Jason and more...

**ECW TV TAPE #5 • Features 6 hours of action**  
Sabu vs. Too Cold Scorpio, Cairo vs. Sandman (Falls count anywhere) Funk vs. Public Enemy, Pitbull vs. Jason, Cactus vs. Sabu Clips, Douglas & Hughes vs. Bruise Brothers (Cage match), 911 vs. Cairo, Dreamer vs. Douglas (Bloody), Taz vs. Jimmy Snuka, Public Enemy & Hackvs. Dreamer & Funks Plus Woman, Cactus Jack, Paul E. Peaches, Mikey, and more...

**ECW TV TAPE #6 • Features 4 hours of action**  
911 & Mr. Hughes stare down, Sandman canes Dreamer, Snuka & Pitbulls vs. Funks & Dreamer, Barbed wire clips Funks vs. Public Enemy, Cactus Jack vs. Terry Funk clips, Jason vs. Mikey (Title change), Taz & Snuka vs. Pitbulls PLUS Chad Austin, Sabu, Paul E. Sandman, Dreamer, and more...

**ECW TV TAPE #7 • Features 4 hours of action**  
Sandman vs. Dreamer, Scorpio vs. Sabu clips, 911 vs. Evil Clown, Sandman vs. Dreamer (Canning match • bloody), Douglas vs. Dean Malenko, Douglas vs. Scorpio from tournament, Chris Benoit vs. Scorpio clips, Cactus Jack & Mikey vs. Public Enemy (Title change) Douglas vs. Nishimura PLUS 911, Scorpio, Taz, Woman, Odyssey, and tons of other matches including all the stars of ECW.

**ECW TV TAPE #8 • Features 4 hours of action**  
Chris Benoit vs. Nishimura, Shane Douglas video, Sandman eye injury, Dreamer vs. Sandman (I quit match) bloody, Cactus Jack vs. Sabu WILD!!!, Jason vs. Mikey PLUS Public Enemy, Woman, Scorpio, Benoit, Paul E. Cactus, Taz, Malenko and all the stars of ECW.

**ECW TV TAPE #9 • Features 4 hours of action**  
Chris Benoit vs. Tazmaniac, Public Enemy vs. Bad Breed (bat match blood bath), Dreamer vs. Cairo (wild brawl all over arena BLOODY), Sandman Press Conference, Douglas vs. Ron Simmons, Cactus Jack & Mikey vs. Public Enemy (bat match title change) Sabu vs. Chris Benoit, Sabu almost breaks his neck PLUS Scorpio, Woman, Sandman, Paul E. Dreamer, and all the stars of ECW.

**ECW TV TAPE #10 • Features 4 hours of action**  
Brian Pillman & Douglas vs. Scorpio & Simmons, Dean Malenko vs. Scorpio (title change), Jason vs. Scorpio, Sabu & Taz vs. Malenkos & Public Enemy interfere, Cactus Jack vs. Kevin Sullivan WILD!!!, Sandman vs. Dreamer (blood bath) PLUS Douglas, JT Smith, Sabu, Public Enemy, and all the stars of ECW.

### SMW • Smoky Mountain Wrestling

#### SMW TV #1 JAN 1994 • 5 HOURS

Bob Armstrong vs. Dick Murdoch • Bodies vs. Furnas Brothers, DWB vs. Brian Lee, Smothers vs. Candito, Bodies attack Paul Morton, DWB vs. Killer Kyle, Candito vs. Spiccoli PLUS The Moon Dogs, Jim Cornette, Terry Funk, Smothers, Tammy Fytch and all the stars of SMW.

#### SMW TV #2 FEB 1994 Features 4 Hours

Terry Funk vs. Bullet, DWB vs. Brian Lee (chain match), R & RX vs. Heavenly Bodies, Bodies & Killer Dyle vs. R & RX & Bobby Blaze Bloody, Press Conference with Thrill Seekers PLUS Moon Dogs, Doug Furnas, Candito, Tammy Fytch, Jim Cornette, Dutch Mantel, Bruise Brothers, Well Dunn and all the stars of SMW.

#### SMW TV #3 MARCH 1994 Features 4 Hours

DWS vs. Hornet, Tom Prichard vs. Tracey Smothers, R & RX vs. Well Dunn, Jim Cornette vs. Armstrong, R & R vs. Bodies (looser leaves town), Smothers vs. Bedlam, Morton vs. Brian Lee, Well Dunn vs. Thrill Seekers PLUS Blaze, DWB, Thrill Seekers, Jake Roberts, Well Dunn, Tammy, Van Horn, and all the stars of SMW.

#### SMW TV #4 APRIL 1994 Features over 4 Hours

R & RX gets jumped by Lee & Candito, Lee & Candito vs. R & RX, Bruiser Bedlam & Jim Cornette vs. Armstrong, R & RX vs. Bodies (looser leaves town), Smothers vs. Bedlam, Morton vs. Brian Lee, Well Dunn vs. Thrill Seekers PLUS Blaze, DWB, Thrill Seekers, Jake Roberts, Well Dunn, Tammy, VanHorn, and all the stars of SMW.

#### SMW TV #5 MAY 1994 Features over 4 Hours

Bruiser Bedlam vs. Smothers (bloody), Lee & Candito, Lee & Candito vs. R & RX title change, Candito vs. Ricky Morton, Jake Roberts jumps DWB, Thrill Seekers vs. Well Dunn, Jake Roberts vs. DWB (title change), Randy Savage vs. Bedlam, Candito vs. Morton everyone comes in PLUS Armstrong, Tammy, Candito, R & RX & Bedlam, Dory Funk and all the stars of SMW.

#### SMW TV #6 JUNE 1994 Features...

Blaze & Furnas vs. Lee & Candito, Smothers vs. Ninja, Well Dunn vs. Seekers, R & RX surprise Tammy with Bambi, DWB vs. Ninja (Jake Roberts interfere), Jake & DWB brawl, Smothers gets attacked by DWB PLUS Armstrongs, Candito, Lee, Cornette, R & RX, Thrill Seekers and all the stars of SMW.

#### SMW TV #7 JULY 1994 Features...

Smothers vs. Killer Kyle, Jake, DDTs, Bambi and DWB saves her, R & RX and Bambi vs. Lee and Candito & Tammy, Funks vs. Armstrongs, Bodies jump Thrill Seekers in parking lot, Smothers vs. Brian Lee, Gangstas debut PLUS Terry Gordy, Thrill Seekers, Bodies, Cornette and all the other stars of SMW.

#### SMW TV #8 AUGUST 1994 Features...

Lee & Candito vs. Armstrongs, Slater & Orion vs. Stomper & R. Garvin, Bodies vs. Thrill Seekers-Bloodiest match ever, R & RX vs. Lee & Candito (hair match), R & RX vs. Lee & Candito (title change) Lee turns on Candito, DWB vs. Killer Kyle, Candito vs. Lance Storm, R & RX vs. Bodies PLUS USWA Gangstas, Bedlam, Chris Walker and all the other stars of SMW.

#### SMW TV #9 SEPT 1994 Features...

Gangstas vs. R & RX (R&RX get injured), R & RX vs. Gangstas re-match) Parking lot brawl with R & RX & Gangstas, Lance Storm vs. Boo Bradley, Brian Lee & Lance Storm vs. Candito & Boo Bradley, Gangstas hang Ricky Morton, Bedlam & Killer Kyle vs. Smothers & Armstrong PLUS tons of other matches with all the SMW stars.

#### SMW TV #10 OCT 1994 Features...

Boo Bradley vs. Lee, DWB & Bedlam Brawl, Ole Anderson and Bryant Anderson debut, Cactus Jack debut, Gangstas vs. R & RX, New Jack vs. Robert Bibson, Cactus Jack vs. Austin, Gangstas vs. R & RX barroom brawl, DWB vs. Bedlam (whipping match) Abby Video, Cactus & Boo Bradley Brawl, R & RX vs. Gangstas bloody brawl PLUS other matches with all the stars of SMW.

### SMW • Smoky Mountain Wrestling

#### SMW TV #11 NOV 1994 Features...

Bryant Anderson and Smothers confrontation, Gangstas vs. Brian Lee & Lance Storm wild brawl, Cornett and Armstrong argue, Cactus Jack feud clips, Cornette & Bedlam training video, Jim Cornette asks Gangstas to let him manage them, but they turn him down, PLUS Candito, Boo Bradley, Smothers, Anderson and all the other stars of SMW.

#### SMW TV #12 DEC 1994 Features...

Gangstas attack Armstrong, Anderson attacks Smothers, Cactus Jack vs. Candito, Gangstas vs. Armstrongs, Buddy Landel attacks DWB, Cactus Jack vs. Boo Bradley, Jim Cornette helps R & RX amazing!! DWB & Landel brawl, Lee vs. Landel title change, PLUS Jerry Lawler, Candito, Lee, Smothers, Anderson, Cactus, and all the other stars of SMW.

## USWA

#### USWA TV #1—6 HOURS Features...

PG13 vs. Eliminators, Lawler & Christopher vs. Gilbert & Machine, Tommy Rich & Gilbert vs. Moon Dogs, Tommy Rich vs. Jerry Lawler & Gilbert & Rich vs. Lawler & Brian Christopher, Sid Vicious interferences GREAT!!! PLUS PG13, Koko B Ware, Master of Orient, Jef Gaylord, and all the stars of USWA.

#### USWA TV #2—6 HOURS Features...

Tommy Rich vs. Lawler (barbed wire blood bath), Christopher and Moon Dogs vs. Gilbert & Rich & Machine, Spellbinder vs. Christopher, Sid Vicious jumps Gaylord, Doug Gilbert vs. Brian Christopher plus PG 13, Eliminators, Sid Vicious, Huber Reggie B Fine.

#### USWA TV #3—6 HOURS Features...

Gilbert vs. Christopher (Car vs. title), Buddy Landel debut, Sid Vicious attacks Lawler, Landel turns on Christopher, Sid Vicious vs. Tanaka, Moon Dogs vs. Rich & Landel (blood bath), Lawler vs. Spellbinder, Moon Dogs get jumped by Rich & Landel, Lawler & Idol vs. Sid Vicious & Huber PLUS all the other stars of USWA.

#### USWA TV #4—6 HOURS Features...

Rich & Landel attack Moon Dogs, Landel & Rich vs. PG13 parking lot brawl, Lawlervs. Sid Vicious, Landel vs. Christopher, Sid & Gilbert vs. Eliminators, Lawler & Christopher vs. Spellbinder & Fine, Christophers vs. Gilbert (Hairvs. Hair), Dark Patriot vs. Christopher, all the other stars of USWA.

#### USWA TV #5—6 HOURS Features...

Sid Vicious & Gilbert vs. Lawler & Christopher, PG 13 & Miss Texas vs. Phantoms & Fantasia, Lawler vs. Gilbert, Rich vs. Lawler, bloody locker room brawl, Mable vs. Sid Vicious, Landel vs. Rich, Moon Dogs vs. Cadillac Brother PLUS Spellbinder, Landel, PG13, and all the other stars of USWA.

#### USWA TV #6—6 HOURS Features...

Rich & Landel feud clips, Lawler & Christophers vs. Rich & Gilbert PLUS a bloody locker room brawl, Moon Dogs vs. Rich & Gilbert & Dowden vs. Lawler & Dundee & Christopher, Rich vs. Landel, Gaylord vs. Spellbinder, Bruise Brothers debut, Lawler & Dundee & Christopher vs. Rich & Gilbert & Machine, PLUS tons of other matches with all the USWA stars.

#### USWA TV #7—6 HOURS Features...

Lawler & Sid brawl, Rich vs. Christopher, Dundee & Gilbert brawl, Rich & Christopher brawl, PG13 & Dundee vs. Spellbinder & Gilbert & Rich, best of Memphis 10 man tag match PLUS tons of year in review matches with Funk, Sid Vicious, Lawler, Dundee, Rich, Landel and all of the other stars of USWA.

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# Behind the Dressing Room Door

by David Rosenbaum

**T**HE BAD NEWS is that my chiropractor is angry. The good news is that I'm seeing a chiropractor and not a mortician.

"You did what?" he asked incredulously when I told him that I played one-on-one basketball with Big Van Vader. "Why would you do something stupid like that? What would possess you?"

Funny that he should ask. Here's the man who goes canoeing in the alligator-infested canal near our house and doesn't think twice about it. He's the man who went biking through the Everglades and didn't really care whether he ran into a stray gator, rattlesnake, or panther. I'm crazy? I'm stupid?

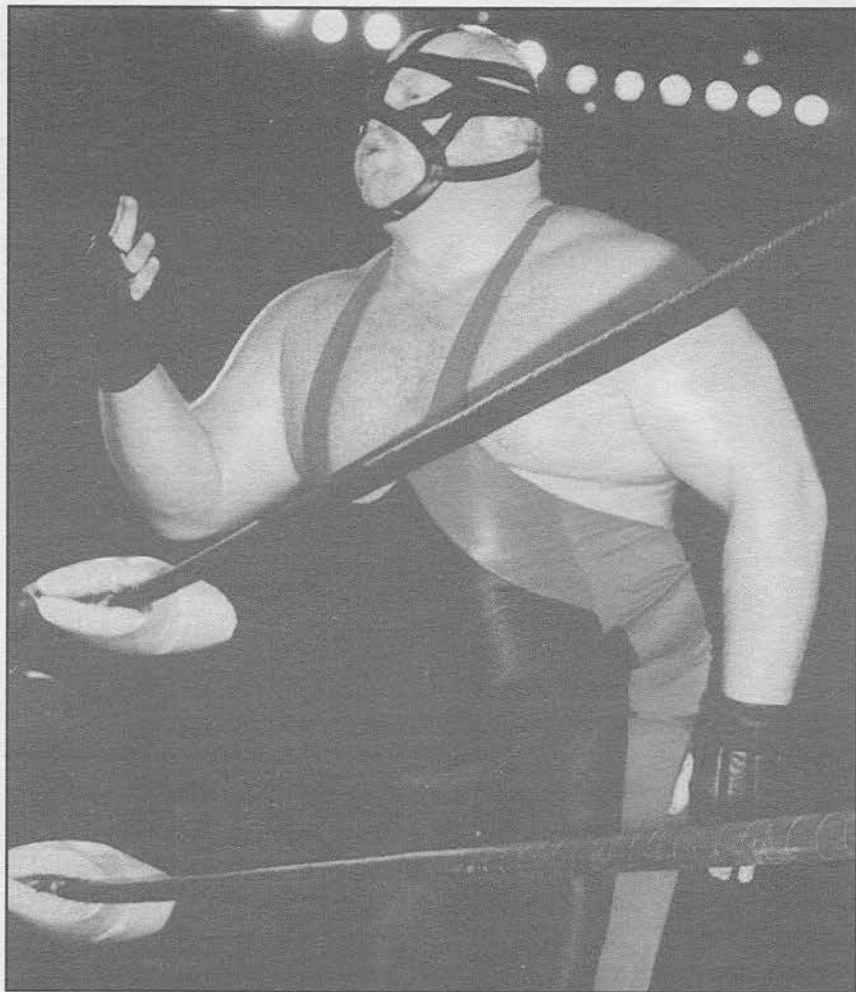
Yeah, well, I guess I am. At least I don't make a public spectacle of myself, like that cheap-looking woman with the mini miniskirt sitting in the first row at The Great American Bash. You know, the one with the scorpion on her chest. Not a real scorpion, of course, just a tattoo of one. As if it really matters in the white trash department. One camera man seemed fascinated by her, which is all you need to know about that camera man's taste in women.

But I'm getting away from myself. The fact is that Jay Klein, doctor of chiropractic medicine, wants to know why I subjected myself to a very rough game of one-on-one basketball with the three-time former WCW World champion just when I was in the middle of an extensive series of chiropractic adjustments to cure

going in three different directions. There were bulges here and bulges there, tightness here and tightness there.

"Have you been engaging in any strenuous activity that might have aggravated your condition?" he asked.

"Nothing really," I said. "Well, I played a little one-on-one basket-



Big Van Vader is a crippler inside the ring. He can also be real dangerous when he gets on a basketball court with an intimidated and overmatched journalist.

my aching bones.

You see, the conversation went like this:

"Doctor, I have a problem," I said. "I'm not sure the treatments are doing any good. I really hurt bad."

"Let me have a look," he said.

He felt around and saw that just about every bone in my back was out of whack. My vertebrae were

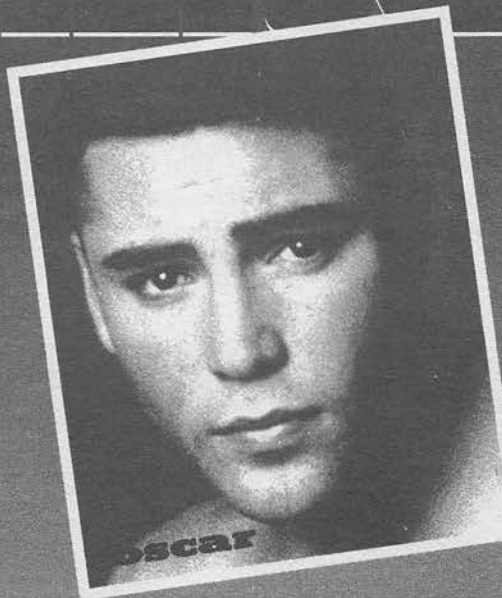
ball the other day, but that's about it."

That's when our conversation took a turn for the worst and doctor turned into mother hen. He wanted to know why I played basketball with Vader. I told him it's my job. He wanted to know when I became a basketball player. See, he thought I was a journalist. I told

*(Continued on page 60)*

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# the Insider

by Eddie Ellner

*(The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.)*

**Editor's note:** INSIDE WRESTLING columnists Eddie Ellner and Liz Hunter have been given the assignment of traveling cross-country by car and recording their observations of the sport and the people who follow it. On this final leg of their trip, they finally reach their ultimate destination: Venice Beach, California.

**D**EAR READERS, This is, I'm afraid, our final communication. It is time. So long, farewell, good night, sweet dreams. I leave you with grace and dignity, not to mention a heart of lead.

After 10 years, one does not make hasty decisions, and I did not come to this one lightly. But a recent experience has shaken the foundations of my professional life; I find myself in a clearing in the woods, near a midpoint in my life, and I am forced to do the only honorable thing I can.

At very least I owe you the story.

Hunter and I returned to my new home in Venice Beach, California, our journey finally complete. She and I opened a bottle of '77 Spiegel Port and sat overlook-

ing a few dozen of the crazies on Venice Beach. I must admit to a twinge sitting there with her. I even took her hand, and was fast approaching a moment that could end only in a smooch, when the damned phone rang.

"Yo, mate," said the voice. "I can't believe you're in."

The voice belonged to Glenn

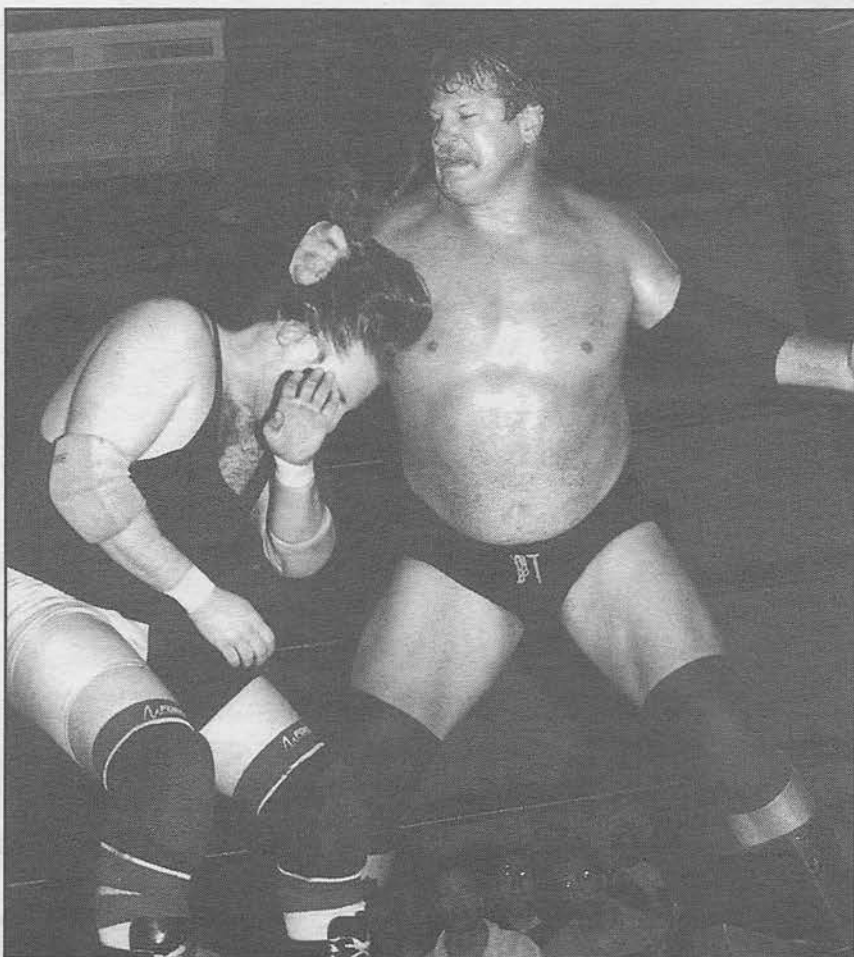
Jameson, a New Zealand ad man of absolutely no significance to wrestling fans. Or so I thought.

"Listen, Eddie, I have an incredible opportunity for you," the nitwit Kiwi enthused. "You have to listen to this."

He wanted to know if I'd be interested in being the spokesman for Rulebreakers, a new line of men's underwear not much bigger than a gauze pad, a product that markets itself to the public with the tag line "violating the rules of decency—and loving it."

I said no as politely as I could. Glenn is an old friend, a wise and generous soul—plus I feel guilty because before he married her, I

*(Continued on page 61)*



Stan Hansen will always be one of my favorite wrestlers to watch. But I had to wonder what this world was coming to when a guy as tough as "The Lariat" was trying to convince me to sell underwear.

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# ON Assignment

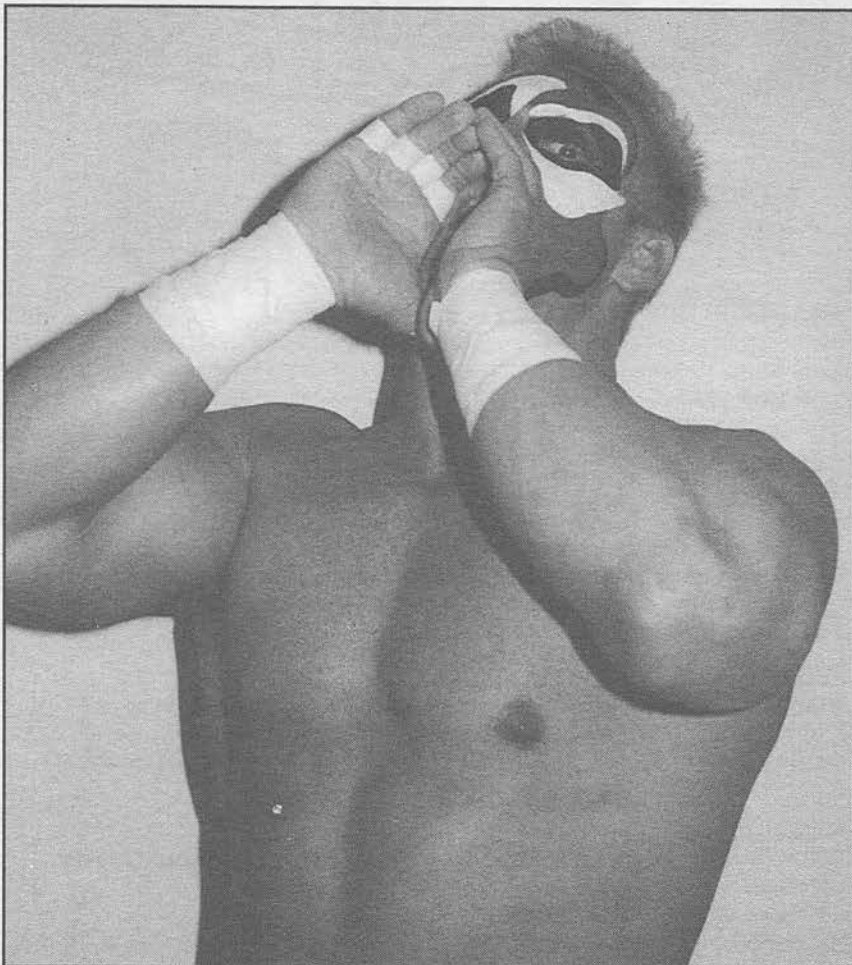
By Liz Hunter

**T**HE GRAND EXPERIMENT ended on a somber, sober note. I won't ever travel again with anyone the way I had with Ellner, crammed into a car for months, at his whim and disposal. I felt like one of the sequestered O.J. jurors. But I'm glad I took this long trip—and I'm glad I took it with Ellner. Say what you will about my colleague, and I've said quite a few nasty things, but I must admit he lives his truth—a truth that will crush him in the end. But that's a story for him to tell.

Things were going well for us. We descended down the West Coast from Portland, where we ran into Roddy Piper and Don Owens in a coffee bar, reliving the Pacific Northwest glory days. Billy Jack Haynes walked in, and he and Piper got into an argument over the merits of designer coffee (Piper loves the frappacino Billy Jack thinks is sending America to hell in a handbasket). Soon the two were at each other's throats. Owens said he should book the match, then separated the two wrestlers.

We joked about the incident as we drove south through the heart-breaking vistas of San Francisco, Big Sur, and Santa Barbara. "Imagine the promotion campaign for a Seattle coffee bean match," Ellner said. "A shot of espresso every minute until someone's head explodes. Call it a Texas shake match."

The good mood prevailed until we arrived at Ellner's new doorstep in Venice Beach. I was glad we would part company good friends. We opened a bottle of wine and drank it on his balcony, which overlooks the Venice board-



The "Stinger" is "Owwwww-ing" with joy again. He is the WCW U.S. champion again, and the fans love him. He realized that he craves and needs fan attention.

walk. I must admit to entertaining a romantic thought or two. We had been through so much together—hours in the car with Jim Cornette, Michael Jordan's return with Ric Flair, the voodoo museum with Flair, WrestleMania fracas with Jerry Lawler, counting the cars on the New Jersey Turnpike. The memories flooded back. I reached for his hand, took it in mine ... then the phone rang. Ellner spoke for several moments, and when he returned, his mood had visibly shifted.

"I don't want to talk about it," he barked when I asked what was wrong. "I just need to be alone for a while."

While Ellner brooded, I rented a pair of rollerblades and skated the famous path that snakes along the ocean from Redondo Beach to Pacific Palisades. Smack in the middle is Santa Monica, a favored *Baywatch* filming location. I was hoping to bump into a few cast members and question their involvement in the Savage-Flair

*(Continued on page 62)*

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2664	Alice Cooper	3261	Damn Yankees	8291	James Taylor	6722	NRBQ	7746	Spin Doctors
2541	Alice in Chains	3262	Danger Danger	5261	Jane's Addiction	6723	Ozzy Osbourne	7181	Squeeze
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2352	Belly	3461	Dinosaur Jr.	5831	Judas Priest	4221	Peter Gabriel	7862	Sundays
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2726	Cracker	4274	Hardline	6721	Mr. Big	7523	Slaughter	6251	Yngwie Malmsteen
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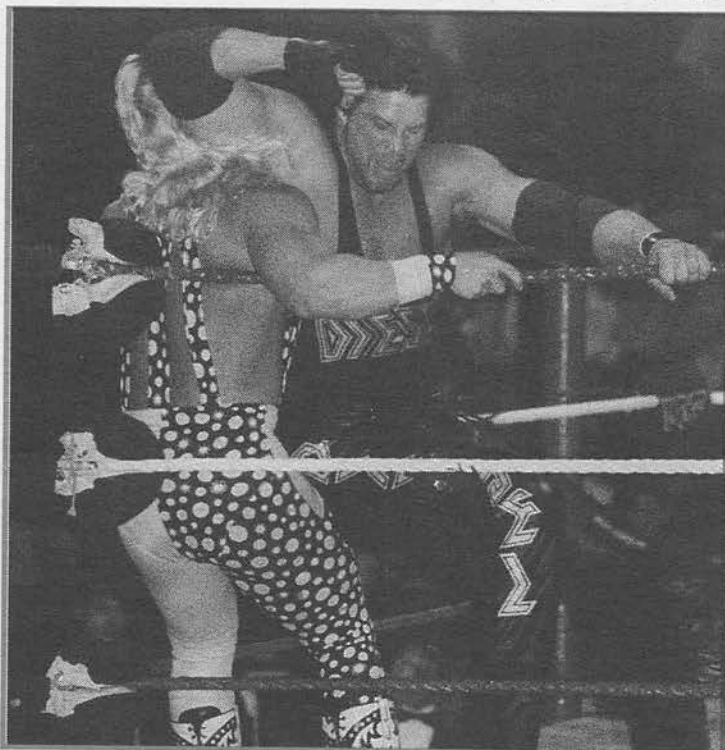
# INSIDE WRESTLING CAPSULE PROFILE <sup>223</sup>

## DIESEL

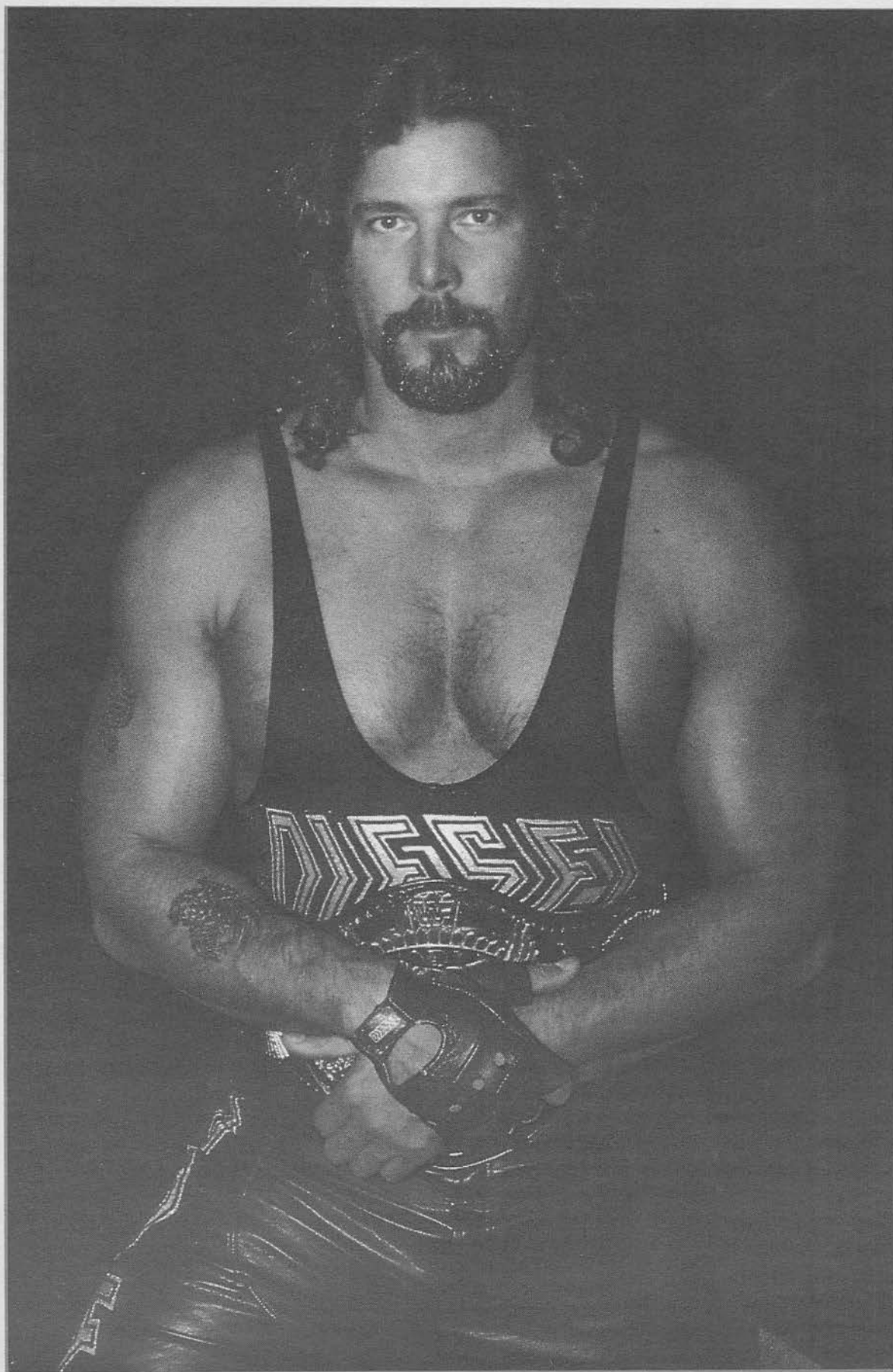
**F**ROM MID-CARDER to World champion—that sums up the last three years of Diesel's career. The WWF World champ continues to get more confident as he defends his title against Sid Vicious and others ... Played basketball at the University of Tennessee before turning to wrestling five years ago ... Wrestled under the names Master Blaster Steel, Oz, and Vinnie Vegas in his pre-WWF days (*"Sometimes a man has to try different approaches"*) ... Was briefly managed by the likes of Harley Race and Kevin Sullivan ... As Vegas, had trouble with mid-carders such as Erik Watts and Van Hammer (*"When you lack confidence, you can lose to anyone!"*) ... Joined the WWF on June 6, 1993, as Shawn Michaels' bodyguard, and helped Michaels win the I-C title from Marty Jannetty that night ... Helped Michaels in rematches with Jannetty and in bouts with Curt Hennig (*"Michaels always paid well"*) ... Got a chance to wrestle regularly when Michaels briefly left the WWF after being stripped of the I-C title in September 1993 ... Looked shaky at times, but found ways

to beat Tatanka, Jannetty, and The Kid ... Singlehandedly eliminated seven men at the 1994 Royal Rumble (*"That took a few people by surprise"*) ... Seconded Michaels for his bouts against new I-C champ Razor Ramon when the "Heartbreak Kid" returned to the federation ... Got an assist from Michaels and beat Ramon for the belt himself on April 26, 1994 (*"That first belt is something you never forget!"*) ... Probably would have beaten Bret Hart for the WWF World title at King of the Ring '94, but Jim Neidhart interfered just after Diesel power-bombed "The Hitman" (*"So close"*) ... Teamed with Michaels to beat The Headshrinkers for the World tag team title on August 28 ... Lost the I-C belt to Ramon one night

later when Michaels accidentally superkicked him (*"That's when the problems started!"*) ... He and Michaels vacated the tag title after a disagreement at Survivor Series ... Subbed for an injured Bret Hart against new WWF champ Bob Backlund three nights later and pinned Backlund for the belt in eight seconds (*"That'll be a hard record to break"*) ... Battled Hart to a thrilling draw at the 1995 Royal Rumble, as Michaels, Backlund, Owen Hart, Jeff Jarrett, and The Roadie interfered (*"They ruined a classic!"*) ... Went on to successfully defend his title against Backlund, Jarrett, Bam Bam Bigelow, and King Kong Bundy ... Beat Michaels in a WrestleMania XI thriller ... Befriended his former employer again the next night after Vicious, Michaels' new bodyguard, turned against him (*"This time the friendship will last"*) ... Also befriended Bigelow after Ted DiBiase fired him from his Corporation ... Needed elbow surgery after being power-bombed by Sid at In Your House in May, but recovered and teamed with Bigelow to beat Tatanka and Sid at King of the Ring ... Keeps getting better and better (*"Anyone who wants a shot at the title belt knows where to find 'Big Daddy Cool'"*). □



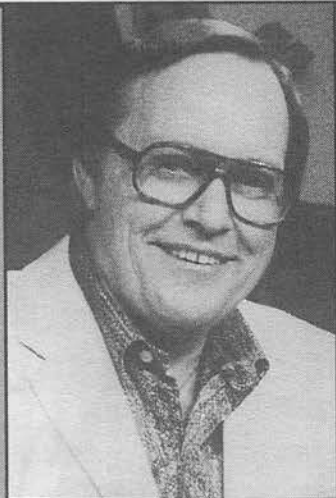
Intercontinental champion Jeff Jarrett looked overmatched against Diesel earlier this year. The seven-footer has been unstoppable since he won the WWF World title last November.



**DIESEL**

# Where Are They NOW

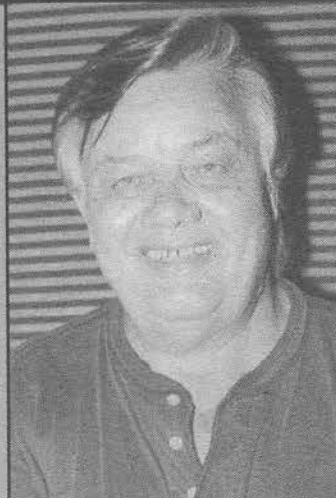
Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



## GORDON SOLIE

After working as a broadcaster for more than 35 years, Solie, who was inducted into the WCW Hall of Fame in May, has retired. He said he has plans to stay involved in wrestling in some capacity, but he couldn't give any specific details as of press time. He

did say he intended to spend a lot more time with his wife, Smokey, at their home in Florida. "It's time for me to concentrate on family more," he said. "But I'll never get away from the sport I love!"



## JACKIE FARGO

He was *the* legendary wrestler in the Memphis-Louisville area before Jerry Lawler arrived on the scene, and Fargo was recognized for his accomplishments earlier this spring when he was inducted into the Memphis Wrestling Hall of Fame. Fargo,

who still lives in Louisville, where he is involved in several private business ventures, even came out of retirement in June to manage The Fabulous Ones—Steve Keirn and Stan Lane—for several legends matches.



## ROB VAN DAM

Van Dam, who has also competed under the name Robby V, has been busy wrestling for All-Japan Wrestling and several American independents during the last few months. What is perhaps most interesting about Van Dam is not what he is doing, but rather

what he *isn't* doing. He opted not to try out for a key role in the movie *Superfights*, even though producers said he had an excellent chance of landing a part. The reason? It would have forced him to cancel his Japanese wrestling commitments.



## TERRI POWER

Power is still a very active wrestler. She competes mostly in Japan and throughout Europe these days and reports she is very happy doing so. A long-time competitor in the Ladies Professional Wrestling Association, Power recently narrated

a videotape called *The Super Ladies Of Wrestling* that featured seven of the greatest LPWA matches ever. "I had a whole lot of fun doing that," she said. "I almost forgot how wild some of those matches were!"

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### WORD LIST

<b>ARENA</b>	<b>MATCH</b>
<b>ATTACK</b>	<b>PINFALL</b>
<b>BODYSLAM</b>	<b>PUNCH</b>
<b>BOOTS</b>	<b>RING</b>
<b>CHAMPION</b>	<b>ROPES</b>
<b>CHOKER</b>	<b>SAVATE</b>
<b>DROPKICK</b>	<b>SUPLEX</b> ✓
<b>LEGDROP</b>	<b>TEAM</b>

### HIDDEN MATCH:

**GAME  
#69**

### DIAGRAM

H	E	E	K	O	H	C	U	P	S
B	N	T	C	L	K	H	U	O	E
G	O	A	A	R	E	N	A	K	P
H	I	O	T	V	C	N	V	C	O
C	P	S	T	H	A	G	N	I	R
T	M	E	A	S	R	S	I	K	C
A	A	L	L	A	F	N	I	P	F
M	H	M	A	L	S	Y	D	O	B
L	C	S	U	P	L	E	X	R	A
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#### WRESTLING WORD-FIND CHALLENGE RULES & REGULATIONS

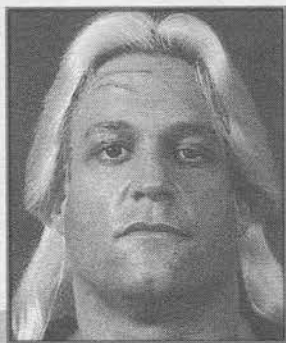
Enter as often as you wish. Open to residents of the continental U.S. 12 or older; under 18 need parental permission to participate. Void in CA, MN, NJ, LA, GA, and where prohibited by law. The contest begins 8/15/95 and ends 1/15/96. Contest consists of three games. Game 69 begins 8/15/95 and ends 11/15/95; Game 70 begins 9/15/95 and ends 12/15/95; Game 71 begins 10/15/95 and ends 1/15/96. Approximately five days after each game, one First Prize winner and five Second Prize winners will be selected at random from among all eligible entries received that correctly identify the hidden match for that game. First Prize winners will each receive \$250 cash; Second Prize winners will each receive a 6-issue subscription to *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* (retail value of subscription \$15). Total retail value of all prizes to be awarded is approximately \$325. For each game, the odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received that correctly identify the hidden match. All prizes will be awarded. No substitutions allowed. **NO PURCHASE OR TELEPHONE CALL NECESSARY TO PARTICIPATE.** For complete rules and/or mail-in entry form with word list clues and word-find diagram, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: WRESTLING WORD-FIND CHALLENGE, P.O. BOX 625, DEVON, PA 19333, and at your option, identify the number of the game you wish to enter. All mail-in entries must be postmarked no later than the ending date of the game entered (as indicated on the entry form provided by the sponsor) and received no later than five days after the ending date of that game. Contest sponsored by London Publishing Co. and Advanced Telecom Services, Inc., 996 Old Eagle School Road, Wayne, PA 19087-1806 (610) 964-9146.

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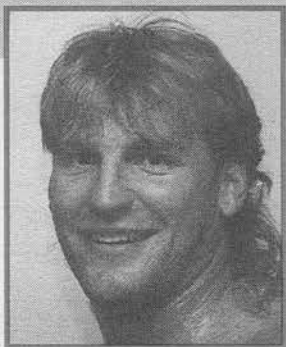
**CALLERS UNDER 18 NEED PERMISSION OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN!**

# NEWS FROM THE

**JOHNSON CITY, TN  
BY HOMER EARLESON**



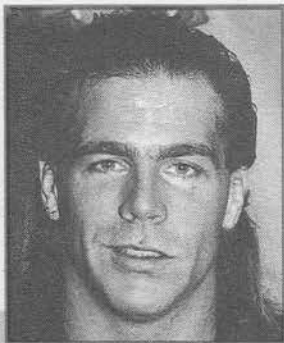
**BUDDY LANDELL  
VS.  
STEVE ARMSTRONG**



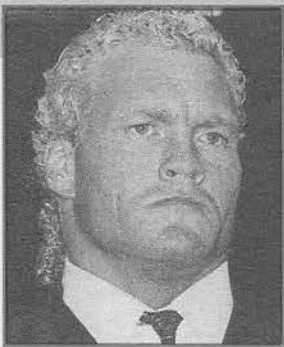
Landell successfully defended his SMW heavy-weight title against Steve Armstrong in this no-disqualification match. The only way to win the match was to make your opponent submit to the figure-four leglock. Landell's manager, Gen. Jim Cornette (dressed in a full military uniform), took advantage of the no-disqualification rule and whacked Armstrong several times with his trademark tennis racket while the referee was watching. Cornette got even bolder later and entered the ring, but Armstrong decked him. Cornette's army helmet came off at that point, and Landell used it to smash Armstrong. Landell then cinched Armstrong in the figure-four and forced him to submit.

**OTHER BOUTS:** D-Lo Brown defeated Bobby Blaze ... Boo Bradley defeated Killer Kyle ... Tracey Smothers and Tony Anthony defeated New Jack and D-Lo Brown in a stretcher match ... The Rock 'n' Roll Express beat SMW tag team champions Al Snow and Unibomb in a non-title match.

**NEW YORK, NY  
BY PAUL ROUGES**



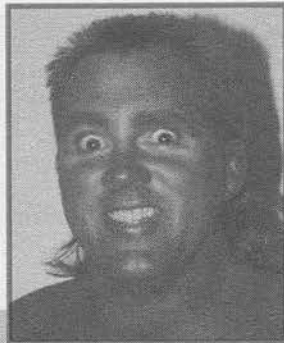
**SHAWN MICHAELS  
VS.  
SID VICIOUS**



Sid, who has been known to walk away from the ring in the middle of a match, had nowhere to run to in this bout since it was contested inside a steel cage! Shawn chased his former bodyguard up the cage, and Sid lost his balance and fell. He soon regained momentum and nailed Shawn with several kicks and punches. Eventually both men climbed to the top of the cage, where Sid picked up Michaels and dropped him to the mat. Michaels recovered and came close to exiting the cage, but Ted DiBiase slammed the door shut on him. Sid tried choke-slammings and power-bombing Shawn, but Shawn blocked a second power bomb, rammed Sid into the cage, and slipped out the door for the win.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Skip beat Aldo Montoya ... Men on a Mission beat The Smokin' Gunns ... Jean-Pierre Lafitte pinned Doink ... Adam Bomb beat Intercontinental champion Jeff Jarrett by disqualification ... Man Mountain Rock beat Bob Backlund ... Savio Vega pinned Owen Hart ... Totanka pinned Bam Bam Bigelow.

**SMYRNA, DE  
BY HEATH CUMMINS**



**BRUTUS BEEFCAKE  
VS.  
RICK MARTEL**

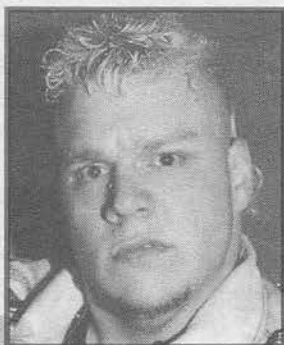


WWWA heavyweight champion Beefcake ran across an old WWF comrade in the person of "The Model." It was a wild match. Martel attacked the champion as soon as the bell rang but could not knock him off his feet. Beefcake rallied back with several punches and kicks and even locked Martel in his sleeperhold for a few minutes. Martel worked hard and broke out of it. The match spilled out of the ring and onto the arena floor, where both men used chairs as weapons. They continued to batter each other for several minutes, ignoring the referee's warnings. Finally, the official had no other choice but to disqualify both men.

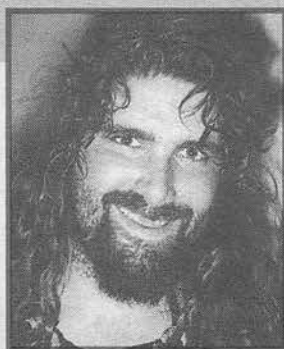
**OTHER BOUTS:** Harley Lewis pinned Johnny Handsome ... WWWA junior heavyweight champion Rick Ratchet wrestled Ace Darling to a double-countout ... Derrick Domino defeated Psychotron ... Brittany Brown beat Brandy Alexander ... Bobby Piper beat Intercontinental champ Glenn Osbourne by disqualification ... Jim Neidhart wrestled Primo Carnera III to a double-countout.

# WRESTLING CAPITALS

**PHILADELPHIA, PA  
BY CHARLIE NASH**



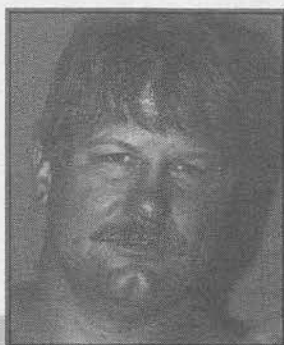
**ALAX ROTTEN  
VS.  
CACTUS JACK**



Believe it or not, Jack and Rotten both actually tried to wrestle a great technical match. There were a few armbars, counterholds and moves, and a few take-downs, but the bout didn't get really exciting until most fans started booing. That prompted Axl to grab a chair and pound Cactus, who happily returned the favor. Jack added a few clotheslines and legdrops before Axl flattened him with several hard right hands. They continued to pummel each other inside and outside the ring with chairs and other weapons until both were exhausted and Jack somehow scored the pin.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Mikey Whipwreck pinned Don E. Allen ... Shane Douglas pinned Hack Myers ... Marty Jannetty wrestled 2 Cold Scorpio to a draw ... ECW heavyweight champion The Sandman (with Woman) beat Marty Jannetty ... Raven and Steve Richards (with Beulah McGillicutty) beat Tommy Dreamer and Cactus Jack ... The Sandman pinned 2 Cold Scorpio ... ECW tag team champions Public Enemy beat The Pit Bulls.

**SAPPORO, JAPAN  
BY KOICHI YOSHIZAWA**



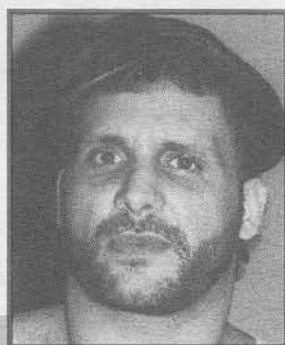
**STAN HANSEN  
VS.  
MITSU HARU MISAWA**



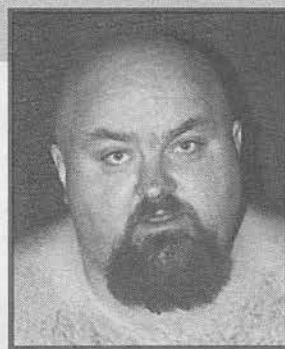
Misawa upset Triple Crown champion Hansen in an exciting and sometimes very brutal match. Hansen attacked Misawa before the bell with a series of punches and kicks. Within a few minutes, he locked Misawa in his Boston crab, but the Japanese sensation withstood the pain, recovered, and fought his way out of the hold. Hansen then power-bombed Misawa and knocked him down with a devastating clothesline. Finally, after approximately 25 minutes of action, Misawa rallied with a flying bodypress, then used a flying headscissors on Hansen to pin him for his second Triple Crown championship.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Mike Anthony & Rob Van Dam beat Maunukea Mossman & Masao Inoue ... Abdullah the Butcher and Kamala II beat Giant Baba and Mighty Inoue ... Tsuyoshi Kikuchi, Yoshinari Ogawa, and Masa Fuchi beat Tamon Honda, Takao Omori, and Jun Akiyama ... Kenta Kobashi beat Johnny Ace ... Toshiaki Kawada and Akira Taue beat The Patriot and Bobby Duncum Jr.

**LASALLE, ONTARIO  
BY KIN SASSAND**



**STEVE LOMBARDI  
VS.  
BASTION BOOGER**



"Brooklyn Brawler" Lombardi didn't have much success against Booger in the WWF a few years ago, but he presented him with a formidable challenge on this Border City/Motor City Wrestling card. Lombardi dominated the first few minutes, and the slower Booger did all he could to keep up with his foe. He hurt Lombardi with a few splashes, but it was obvious Lombardi was determined to win this bout. As things turned out, he needed help to do it. As the two men battled, Bruiser Bedlam came to ringside and nailed Booger with a chair while the referee was distracted. It allowed Lombardi to get the pinfall.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Los Rudos beat New Breed ... Scott D'Amore beat Bruiser Bedlam ... Barry Hardy beat Doink the Clown ... Krom defeated Michael Wildside ... Maximum Intensity beat The Canadian Destroyer and Terry Richards ... Jake Steele beat Anthony Michaels ... Maxx Anthony pinned Otis Apollo in the finals of the tournament for the vacant BCW/MCW TV title.



## Matt Brock's **Plain Speaking**

**Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor**

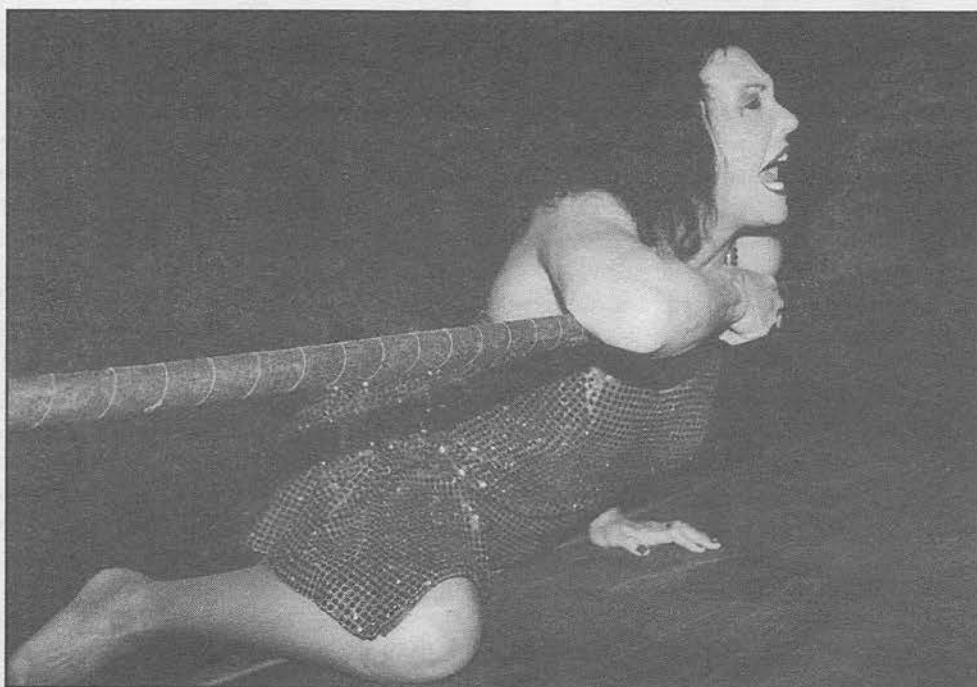
Sheila Warner accompanied me to WCW's Great American Bash, and I'm glad she did, because halfway through The Nasty Boys vs. Blue Bloods match, I turned to her and asked, "What makes a woman act like Sherri Martel? What's wrong with her?" She looked at me as if I'd come from another planet or had been living on this one all along and

wasn't paying attention, but then she showed her usual patience and actually tried to answer my question. Here's what she said: There are women like Sherri just like there are men like Jim Cornette, and it has nothing to do with sex or chromosomes or anything such as that—it's just the way things are. Jesse James was a bad man, and Bonnie of Bonnie and Clyde was a bad woman. Sherri Martel isn't quite as bad as Bonnie, but she might be if she had the chance. She's power hungry, but that's all right, because a lot of men and women are power hun-

gry; they just go about it in different ways. Sherri's a little out of whack and very mean. She wants to have everything her way, which also isn't unusual, but she deals with adversity in different ways. Just as Sheila was saying that, Martel ran to the ring and attacked both teams. Booker T and Stevie Ray followed on her heels, and joined in the attack. Martel cackled all the way back to the dressing room, and I turned to Sheila before heading back there for an interview. "Think you could ever be like that?" I asked her. She paused and winked. "Not on your life, Mattie. But wouldn't you like it if I was?" Not on your life, honey.

People in this sport spend a lot of time talking about what a wrestler's supposed to do and how he's supposed to do it, and they also spend a lot of time talking about what a wrestler didn't do when he was supposed to do it. You know, the usual suspects, like Sid Vicious, The Ultimate Warrior, Razor Ramon, and Lex Luger. Now it looks like you can add Shawn Michaels to that group, because he once again failed to

**DAYTON, OH**



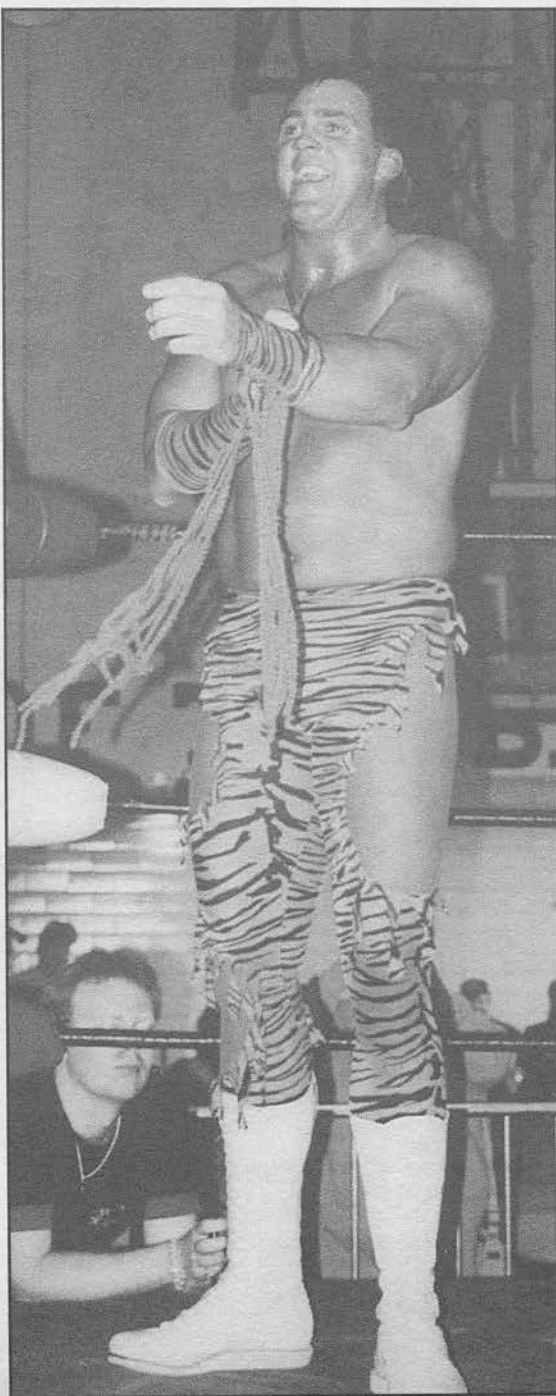
**SHERRI MARTEL**

take the big step at the 1995 King of the Ring tournament. Before King of the Ring, you would've had a hard time getting anybody to give you anything more than 20 cents on a dollar on Michaels winning the tournament, and I heard that some people couldn't get more than a dime.

Here was one of the surest things in wrestling history, considering the other wrestlers in the tournament were The Roadie, Bob Holly, Mabel, The Undertaker, Savio Vega, Kama, and Yokozuna. Only Yokozuna and The Undertaker figured to give Michaels a run for his money, but that's not how it turned out. Michaels didn't even get past the first round. He went to a 15-minute time-limit draw with Kama and afterward was heard complaining that the referee didn't make the final count fast enough to beat the bell. A wrestler crying about the referee is the first sign that he's slipping—slipping fast. Michaels got his big chance when he won the 1995 Royal Rumble, but then he couldn't beat Diesel for the World title at WrestleMania XI. Now this. Michaels shouldn't be complaining about slow counts, because he should've had Kama beaten in the first five minutes, that is if he planned on winning the tournament. Now it turns out that Mabel is the King of the Ring, and Michaels really is the "Heartbreak Kid," although the only heart he's breaking is his own.

The Mall of America is more like a city than a mall and Pastamania, Hulk Hogan's new restaurant,

is more like a wrestling match than an eatery. On this night, Hogan and Randy Savage battled to a draw in a pasta-eating contest while I sunk my teeth into a big plate of chicken parmigiana and lost by disqualification to my cholesterol. Never had indigestion like this before, which is no commentary on the food. It's merely a commentary on how much I ate and



BRUTUS BEEFCAKE

what kinds of food my stomach can stand. The good news for Hogan is that it looks like his career as a restaurant owner is going to be a lot more successful than his acting career, which really isn't saying much. Pastamania was packed—of course, most of these people were here to see Hogan and Savage, but most of them also grabbed a bite to eat—and Hogan looked like a happy man. Tried to get around to asking Hogan why he picked Minnesota, but didn't get the chance. Left the building at about 9:00 and saw busloads of shoppers leaving, too. There's my answer.

Six months ago, he battled Hulk Hogan for the WCW World title in the main event of Starrcade '94, and Brutus Beefcake had never been higher. Now he's just the World Wide Wrestling Alliance heavyweight champion, which is nice for the trophy case, but doesn't quite compare to main-eventing on a big federation's biggest card of the year. Never has there been a better example of what crossing Hulk Hogan will do to your career. Just ask Sgt. Slaughter and Paul Orndorff. They did it, too, and paid the price for years. Slaughter has never recovered. For a while there, people thought Orndorff was dead, and he was, in a symbolic sense. Wrestling dead. Like Beefcake. R.I.P. in the WWWA, "Butcher." □

# Kabuki vs. Chris Adams:

**K**ABUKI. MASTER OF the karate thrust. Possessor of the mysterious green fog. Bearer of multiple black belts in karate, kung-fu, and jujitsu.

Chris Adams. Master of the superkick. Possessor of a superb background in judo. Expert in both European and American styles of pro wrestling.

Both wrestlers were at one time managed by Gary Hart. Now, both are enemies of Hart. Kabuki has allied himself with Sunshine, who has pledged to clean up professional wrestling by running out of the sport any rulebreaker who crosses her path. Adams has allied himself with nobody,

# NOT JUST FOR KICKS

preferring instead to attempt to go it alone in a sport where true friends are few. Adams' feud with the Von Erichs reached epic proportions in 1985.

With both men wrestling in the World Class area, it seemed inevitable that the two would square off in one-on-one competition. And when the day came, the match was billed as a "kick vs. kick" test. To Adams and Kabuki, it was a match for bragging rights; for others, it meant a great deal more.

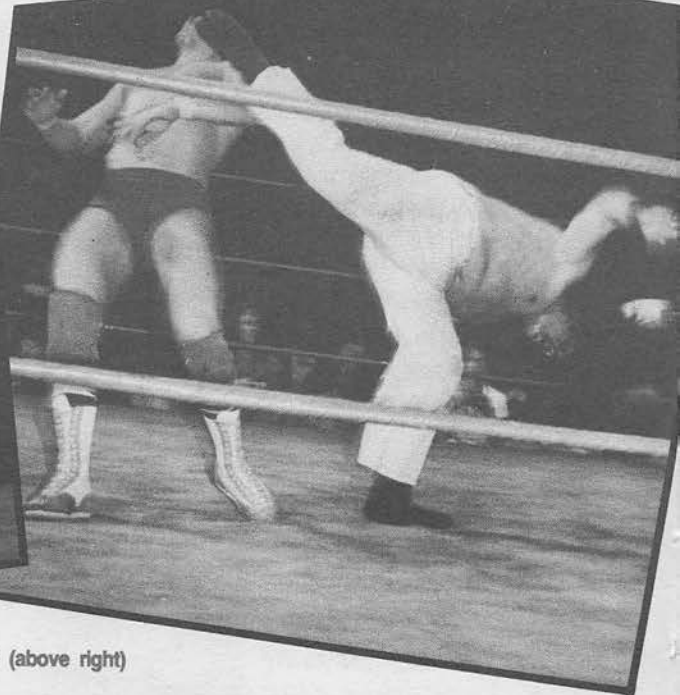
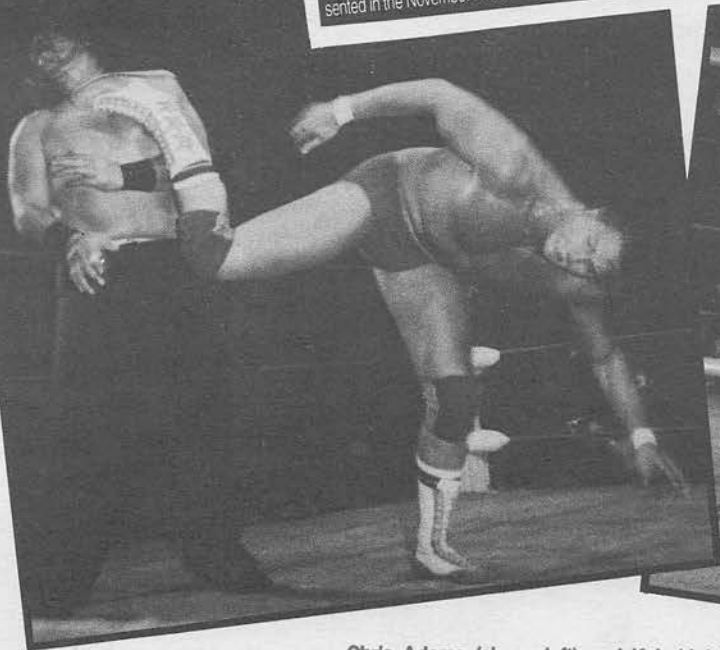
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Gary Hart stood in a doorway that leads to the dressing room area of the Tarrant County Convention Center in Ft. Worth, Texas. It was July 4, and the fireworks that Hart is watching are

## INSIDE WRESTLING CLASSIC!

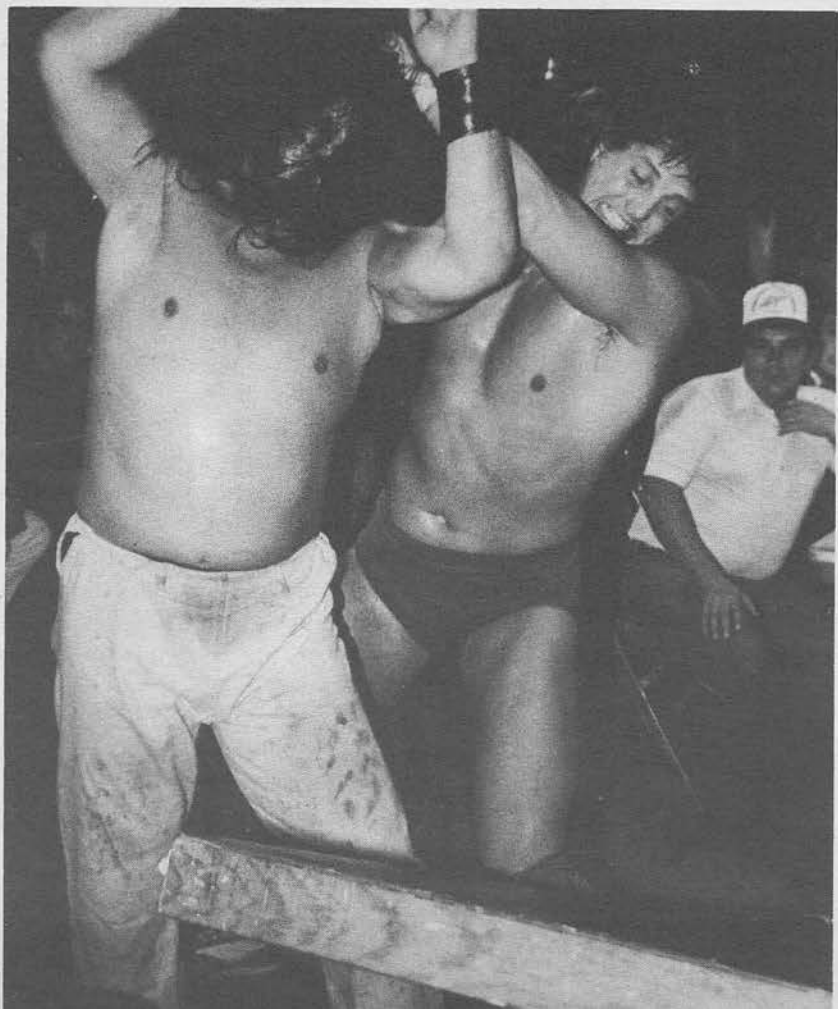
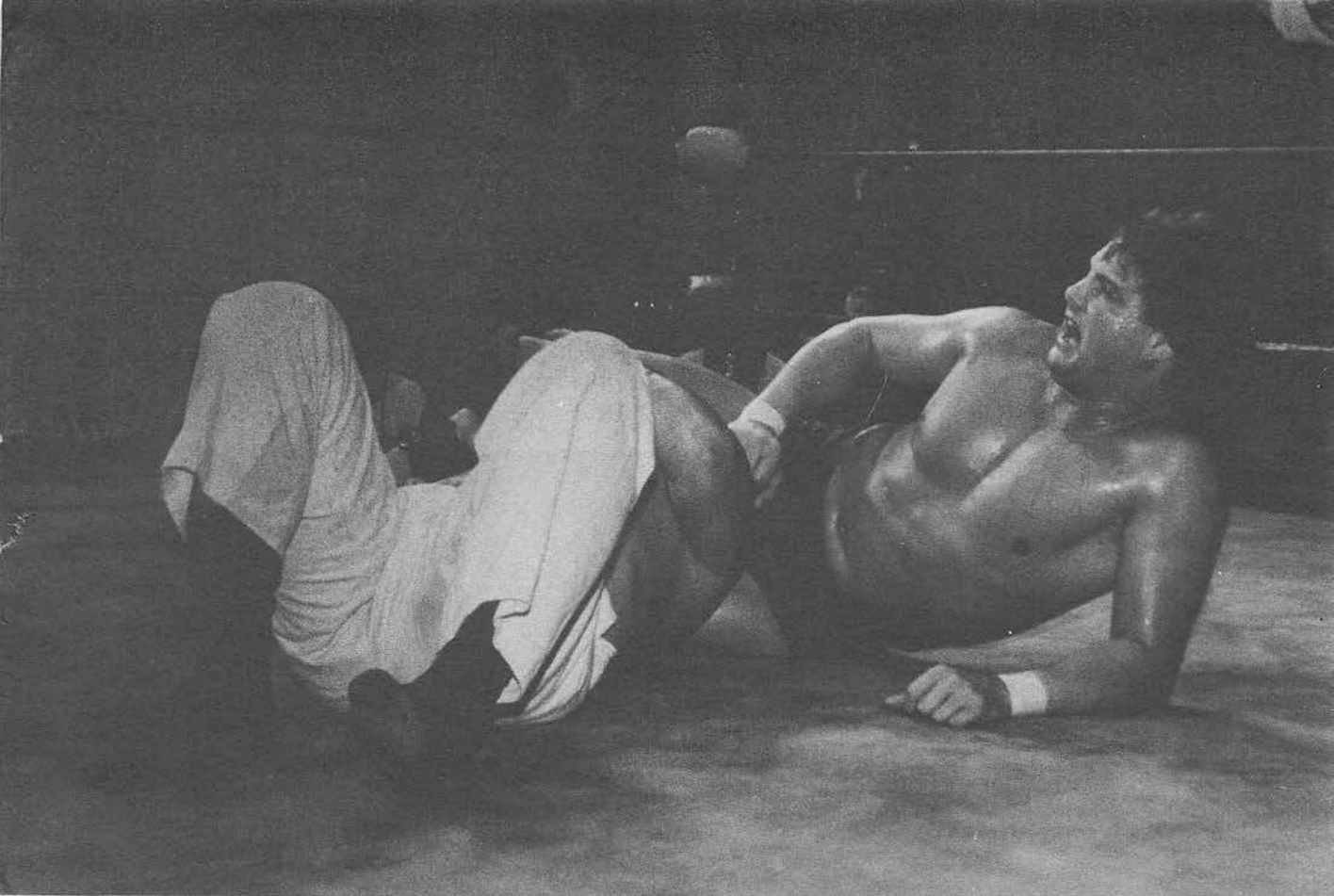
A recent moonsault vs. moonsault contest in Japan between The Great Muta and Hiroyoshi Tenzan (Muta won, by the way; due to match stipulations, Tenzan can never use the moonsault again) reminded us of this battle of the superkicks—and more—originally presented in the November 1985 edition of *Inside Wrestling*.

*Photos by Buddy Myers*



Chris Adams (above left) and Kabuki (above right) exchange stunning karate kicks.

**Which is more powerful and effective: Kabuki's karate thrust or Chris Adams' superkick? There had to be a match to find out. But the Kabuki-Adams war was more than a contest of kicks—much more!**



Adams holds a large edge over Kabuki in the categories of strength and wrestling ability. Neither factor comes into play much in these vicious wars. For the few moments the action is inside the ring, Adams dominates (above). Soon, the action heats up at ringside (left).

taking place not in the sky, but in the wrestling ring.

Well, not always in the ring: Adams had just sent Kabuki through the ropes, and the 252-pounder crushed a table as he fell. Adams scrambled through the ropes, positioned himself above Kabuki, and proceeded to pummel his opponent in the face.

"I hope they both kill each other," Hart mumbled under his breath.

A reporter standing nearby, also watching the violent match, chirped up. "What's that, Gary?"

Hart's scream ripped through the air like a violent gust of wind: "I said I hope the damn both of them kill each other! Does that satisfy your curiosity, you stinking parasite? They're both a couple of back-stabbing scum who deserve what they get."

Hart's frustration, however, seemed obvious: These two men were, at the

moment, the center of attention in the World Class area—two men that, at one time, Gary Hart controlled. Hart's frustration grew out of an agonizing loss of control.

The reporter wisely declined to ask any more questions.

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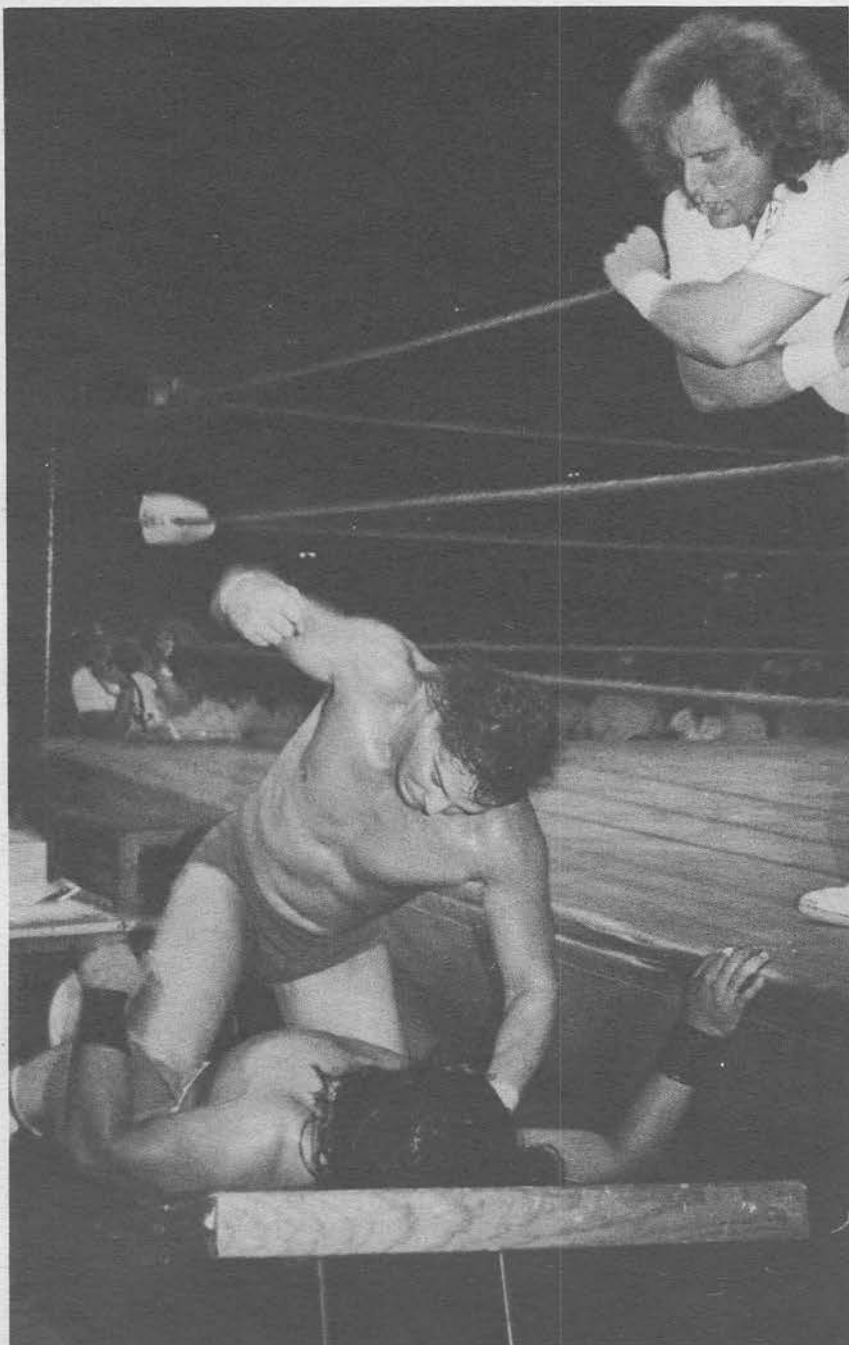
Sunshine, clad in a beautiful silk kimono, accompanied Kabuki to the ring for his match with Chris Adams. She was, of course, hoping that Kabuki

would be able to not only withstand Adams' superkick, but to take the match one step further and best Adams with his karate thrust. Indeed, during an unusual prematch interview, Sunshine had expressed hopes that this would be *the* match to eliminate Adams from World Class area contention.

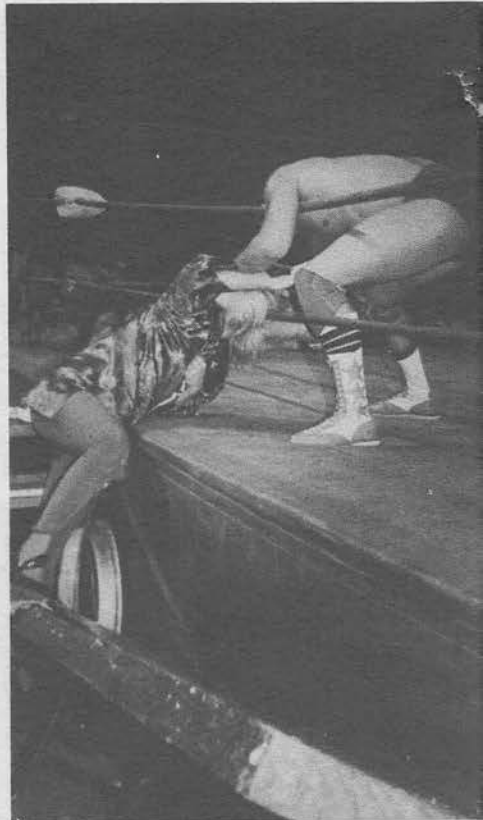
"This is as good a time as any to take a major step forward in my plan to clean up wrestling," Sunshine said.

"Chris Adams is weakened considerably by his feud with the Von Erichs, and he's very worried about his American title match with Iceman Parsons tomorrow night. Kabuki will be hitting Adams with everything he's got. One misstep by Adams could very well cost him his career—and I hope it does."

But Adams would make no missteps this Independence Day, and as the match wore on, the space between Sunshine's eyebrows would become a



Referee Rick Hazzard, who has lost control of the battle, signals for the timekeeper to ring the bell and rules a double-disqualification (above). Adams attacks his former valet, Sunshine, who, luckily, was saved by Kabuki before she was badly hurt (top right).



tightly knitted muscle mass of tension and frustration.

Most frightening for Sunshine, though, was the swift transition from frustration to fear as Adams attacked his former valet at the end of the match. Sunshine required assistance from Kabuki, who karate-thrusted Adams in the head, allowing Sunshine to escape to the safety of her dressing room.

\*\*\*

Gino Hernandez paced nervously in his dressing room in the Will Rogers Coliseum in Ft. Worth, Texas. It was July 8, and once again Adams and Kabuki are going at it in a kick vs.

(Continued on page 56)

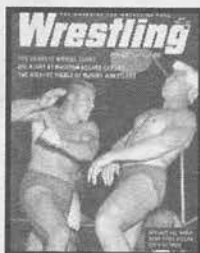
INSIDE WRESTLING

# COLLECTOR'S CORNER

Wrestling historians, rejoice! Some of the back issues in this ad have not been offered for sale for more than a decade—but a recent transfer of warehouse inventory from New York to Pennsylvania uncovered a small supply of these classic publications! Obviously, supplies are extremely limited, so all magazines will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis only. Prices quoted are based on the rarity of the issue and the number of available copies. For speediest service, use VISA or MasterCard or make payment by money order or certified check. Please don't send cash! Don't miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime chance to own a memorable piece of wrestling history! Once they're gone, they'll never be offered for sale again—so order today!

## WRESTLING REVUE

Published between 1959 and 1964, *Wrestling Revue* is acknowledged as one of the finest series of wrestling magazines ever produced. These beautiful editions, all edited and published by Stanley Weston (founder of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, *The Wrestler*, and *Inside Wrestling*, among so many other titles) set a standard for all wrestling magazines that followed, and are available now for the first time in many years!



**Fall 1961** Edouard Carpentier challenges Floyd Patterson, Bruiser vs. Cowboy Bob Ellis, The Zebra Kid, killer holds, action at The Kiel, Nick Bockwinkel vs. Dr. X, and full-color action of the Bastiens vs. Shires & Nelson. \$25

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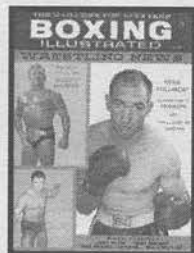
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**February 1964** Edouard Carpentier vs. Killer Kowalski, Florida wrestling, Mad Dog Vachon, Fabulous Moolah, Fritz Von Erich, Rene Goulet, Cyclops, plus a full-color centerfold of Bruno Sammartino. \$35

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## COLLECTOR'S CORNER

### WRESTLING REVUE

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- ☐ December 1961
- ☐ February 1962
- ☐ April 1962
- ☐ June 1962
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- ☐ February 1964

### BOXING ILLUSTRATED/ WRESTLING NEWS

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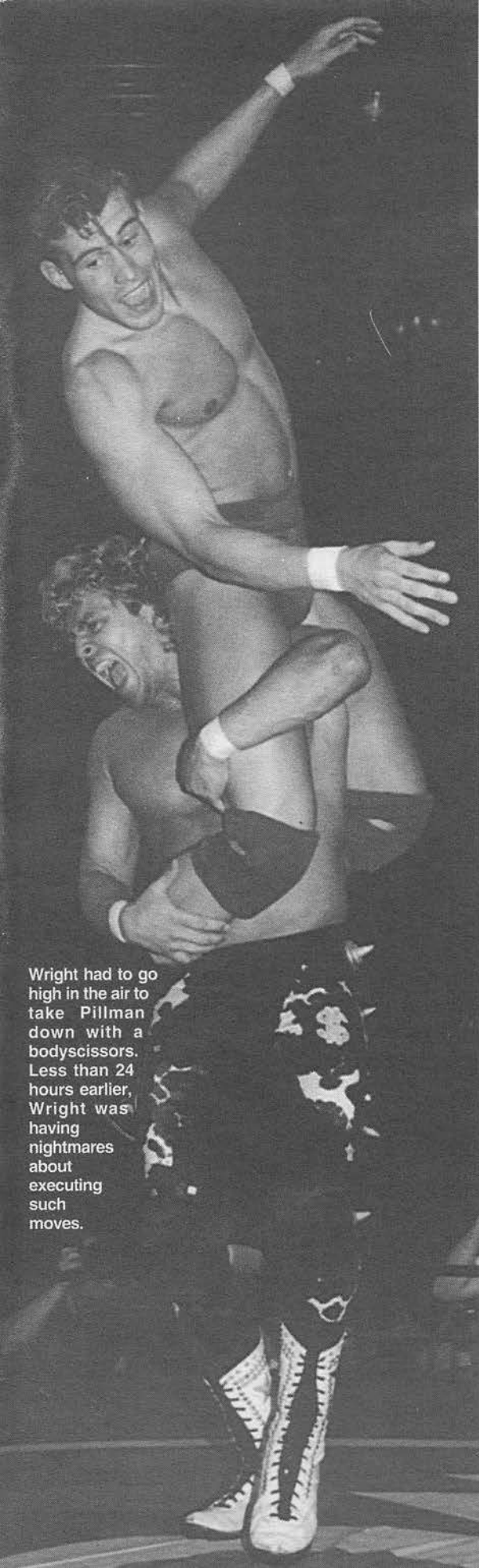
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Wright had to go high in the air to take Pillman down with a bodyscissors. Less than 24 hours earlier, Wright was having nightmares about executing such moves.

**"I Thought I'd  
Never Fly Again!"**

# **THE NIGHT ALEX WRIGHT LOST HIS NERVE**

Photos by  
John S. Pithers

"Das Wunderkind" was eagerly anticipating his Great American Bash clash with Brian Pillman—until a frightening dream drastically changed his outlook

## By Liz Hunter

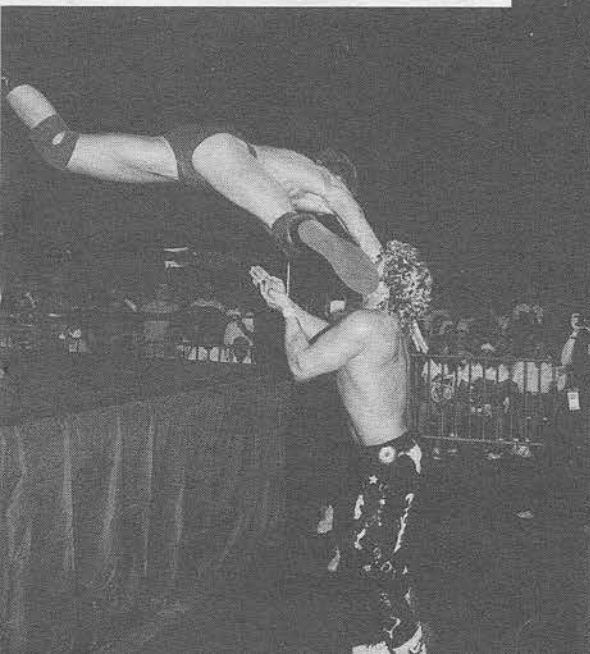
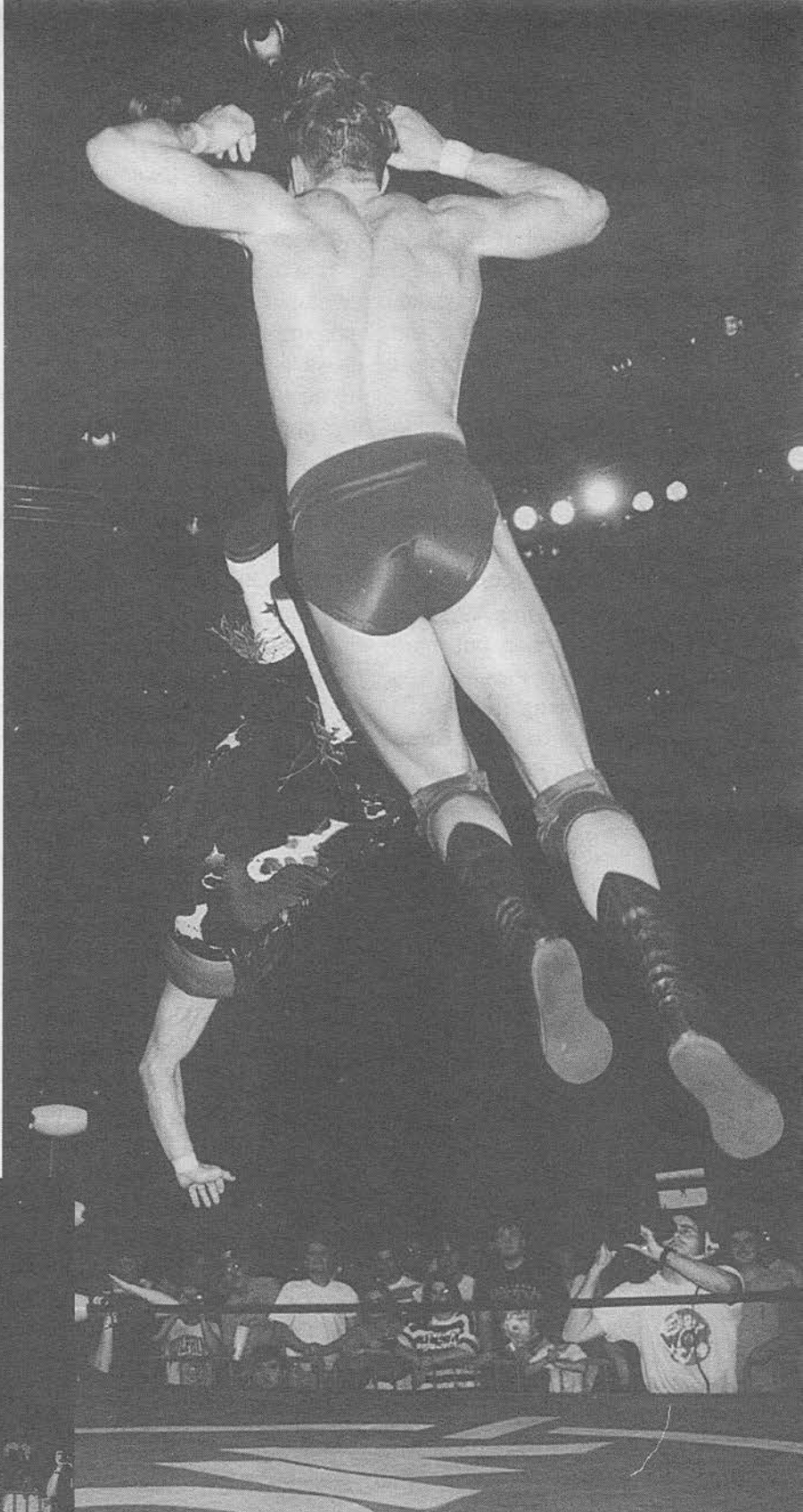
**F**ROM THE MOMENT the match was signed, Alex Wright was looking forward to wrestling Brian Pillman at The Great American Bash. And from the moment Wright found out it would be the opening match on the card, he was looking forward to starting the Bash in style.

"I wanted it to be the kind of match by which all of the others on the card would be judged, absolutely the best match of all," Wright said. "I know Brian felt the same way."

But Wright's anxiousness turned to anxiety less than 24 hours before the Bash got underway. It happened during a fitful night of sleep.

We'll let "Das Wunderkind" himself tell the story of 24 very long hours in his life:

"I got to my hotel in Dayton, checked in at the front desk, went upstairs, took a quick shower, and headed downstairs for some dinner," Wright said. "On the way, I saw Brian in the lobby, shook his hand, and wished him good luck in the match. He seemed very



When Wright tried for a splash, "Flyin'" Brian met him with a dropkick (above). Wright almost misfired on an over-the-top-rope leap (left) when his foot caught on the top rope. His nightmare almost came true!

cool. To make a long story short, I ate dinner and thought I'd go back up to my hotel room and get to bed early so I would be very well-rested the next night.

"That's exactly what I did. I'd say I was in bed by 9:30, which was probably my biggest mistake, because I wasn't really tired, and the more I laid in bed, the more I thought about the match the next night. So I'm tossing and turning and thinking and finally, I guess, I fell asleep.

"It was the worst night of sleep of my life, and that's no understatement," Wright continued. "I kept on having dreams. Most of them I don't remember, but there is one I remember real well. It was a nightmare. It was horrible. I dreamed I was wrestling Brian and that I got hurt really bad doing

a flying move from the top rope. I hurt my neck very bad. I might have broke it. Everything's fuzzy after that, but I remember ambulance sirens and a stretcher, and that's about where I woke up.

"I'm telling you, I was soaked in sweat. It was about 3:30 in the morning, and I didn't sleep another wink. By then it was 9:30 back home in Germany, so I made a few phone calls, and that got me through the rest of the night.

"But believe me, that dream—that nightmare—was with me the rest of the next day."

The long night turned into a long day for Wright as he tried desperately and unsuccessfully to put the dream out of his mind. But it hounded him and kept him from eating his lunch and his prematch meal.

"And it got even worse when I got to the arena," Wright said. "I walked inside and knew immediately that I had seen this place before—last night, in my dream. This was where, in my dream, I injured my neck very bad trying that flying maneuver against Brian.

"Fear just washed over me. I didn't know what I was going to do! How could I cancel a match on such short notice, especially since I wasn't even injured? But at that point, I

thought I'd never fly again."

Wright's apprehension increased as match time approached and peaked when the bell sounded, signifying that the pay-per-view card was about to begin. Wright tried to get himself focused on the match. He ignored Pillman's prematch introduction and got ready for his own. He waited for his music to start, bounded out down the runway, and exchanged handshakes and high-fives with the ringside fans. Wright was trying to put up a good front. Truth was, he was scared stiff. He was so nervous that he felt like he was going to throw up.

All great athletes say they try to get themselves into a zone, where all outside distractions are easily ignored and they are thinking only of themselves and their opponents. When an athlete is in a zone, everything's going right.

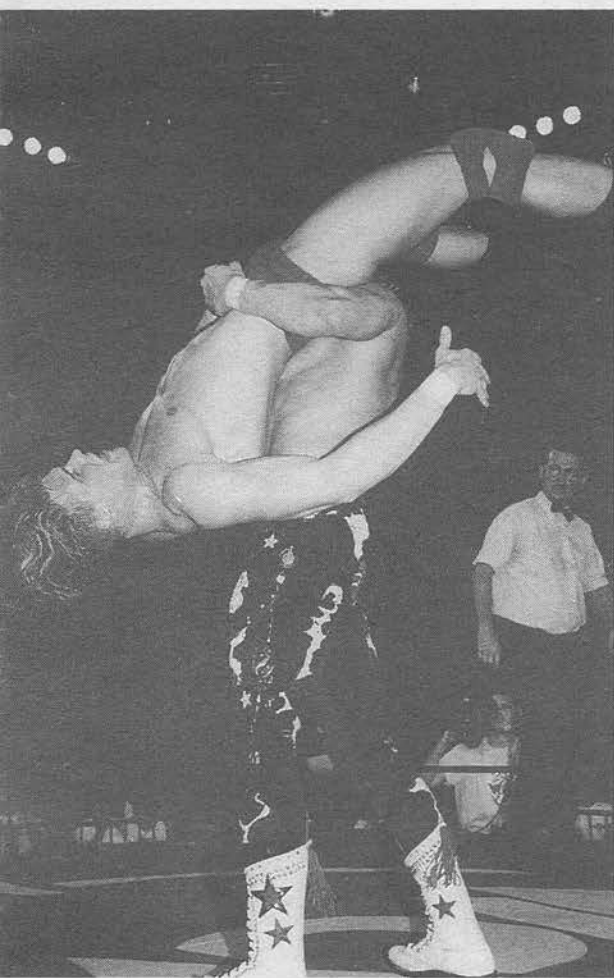
On June 18 in Dayton, Ohio, Alex Wright didn't feel that way at all. His match against Pillman was a highly anticipated meeting of high-flying daredevils. Yet, for the first three minutes, Pillman vs. Wright was a plodding affair.

"I wasn't sure what to do," Wright admitted. "I wanted desperately to try a dropkick or something off the ropes, just to get the nightmare out of my mind, but I couldn't do it. Something was holding me back."

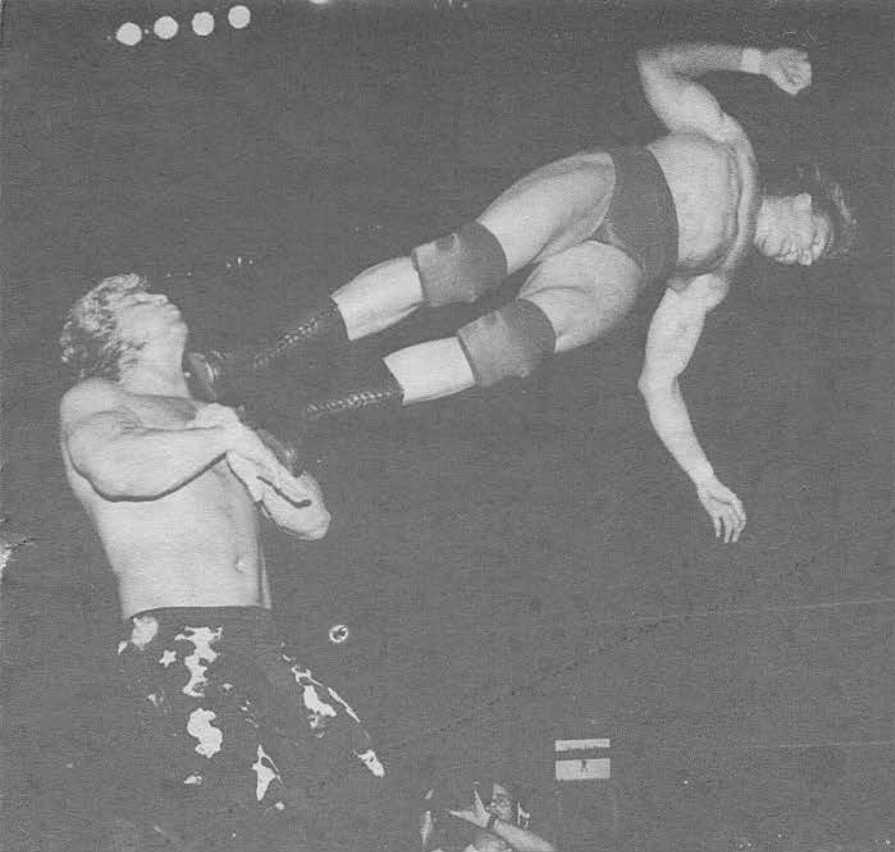
That same something kept holding back Wright until Pillman finally snapped him out of it with a dropkick. Minutes later, Wright mounted the top rope for a backward somersault, which he followed with a flying dropkick.

"It felt good," Wright recalled. "It felt right. That really snapped me out of it. From then on, I didn't even think about the dream."

Incredibly, however, the dream almost came true. With Pillman



Pillman, a slight favorite coming into the match, gained an early advantage from Wright's sluggish start.



One stunning, quick, well-timed dropkick snapped Wright out of his funk and gave him some momentum. When he connected with this move, he knew he didn't have anything to worry about.

lying on the arena floor, Wright vaulted himself over the top rope and onto his prone opponent. Wright nearly got injured when he caught his right foot on the top rope.

"There was nothing smooth about that move," Wright said. "I just about missed, and I could've broken my neck for real."

Later, Wright missed with a flying splash from the top rope. And he was nearly injured yet *again* when he tried another dive from the top rope. As Wright made his descent, Pillman caught him squarely on the chest with a dropkick. "Das Wunderkind" was down and stunned.

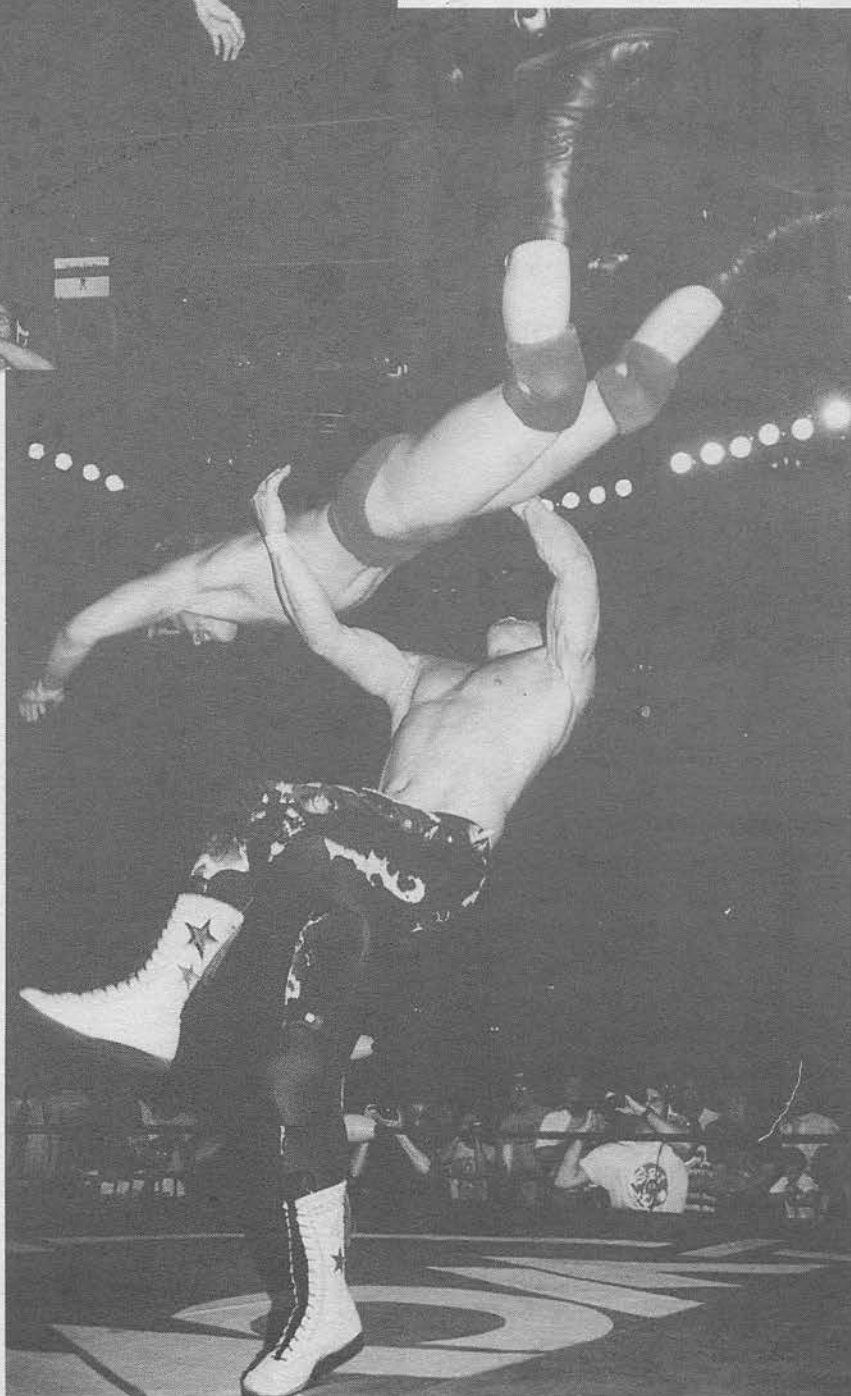
But he would not be deterred. His fears gone, Wright wrestled

"Das Wunderkind" connects with a superb flying bodypress. Once his fear was gone, there was no stopping this budding superstar!

brilliantly the rest of the way. Pillman responded to his youthful adversary, and raised his game a couple of notches as well. Wright continued his ascent to superstardom by rolling up Pillman for the pin at the 15:24 mark, ending one of the best matches of the year.

"This is one match I'll remember forever," said Wright.

He'll probably dream about it. □

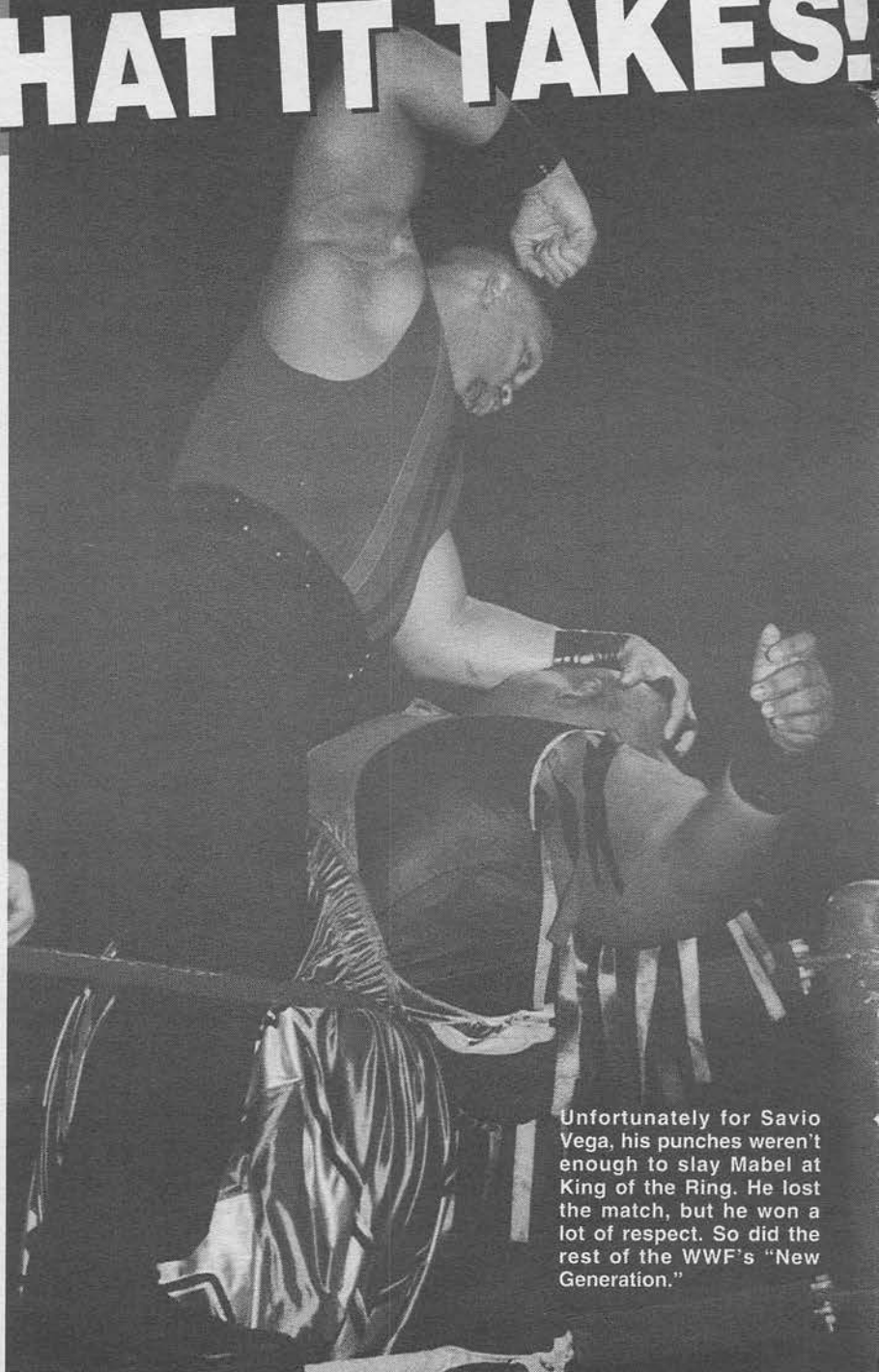


# King Of The Ring Proves: THE WWF'S NEW GENERATION HAS WHAT IT TAKES!

The new kids on the WWF's block have plenty of baby fat and lots of courage. And they've made life worth living again for suicidal wrestling fans everywhere

By Brandi Mankiewicz

**T**HE 1995 KING of the Ring tournament didn't turn out as the WWF expected. In fact, what most people predicted was the exact opposite of what happened. Yokozuna should have won his quarterfinal match and breezed into the finals. Shawn Michaels should have beaten Kama in his quarterfinal, then edged past The Undertaker in a dream semifinal. And the final match between Michaels and Yokozuna would have been a classic.



Unfortunately for Savio Vega, his punches weren't enough to slay Mabel at King of the Ring. He lost the match, but he won a lot of respect. So did the rest of the WWF's "New Generation."

Photos by Bill Apter &  
John S. Pithers

Shawn Michaels and Kama wrestled by far the best King of the Ring match. Both been wrestling for a while, but they're still young. They should be wrestling in the WWF for years to come. The future looks bright!

It didn't turn out that way. In fact, the way it turned out, everything that was supposed to happen didn't happen. Surprise! That was the *good* news for the WWF.

In an era that's bringing out the best of veterans in all sports, the WWF can now point to itself and say, "Look here! There's something fresh and new! We have new stars. The WWF *is* the home of the new generation!"

The WWF's King of the Ring pay-per-view was the coronation of a new breed of wrestling stars. The WWF spells excitement Y-O-U-T-H. Just think: We all used to rip Vince McMahon's federation for its "New Generation" promotional campaign.

Savio Vega was the best of them all. The WWF rookie knocked out two-time former World champion Yokozuna in the quarterfinals, shouldered The Roadie in the semifinals, and came very close to upsetting mighty Mabel in the finals. Savio's completely valid excuse for losing was that it was his fourth difficult match in a little more than two hours.

The Roadie had a fine night, too. He defeated Bob "Spark Plugg" Holly in the quarterfinals

and turned in a good effort against Vega in the semifinals. Holly, who surprised everyone by even making it to the quarterfinals (and some by even qualifying for the tournament in the first place), enjoyed the spotlight in the first important pay-per-view match of his career. And in the upset non-victory of the year, Kama went the distance in a 15-minute time-limit draw against Shawn Michaels, who was considered the favorite going in.

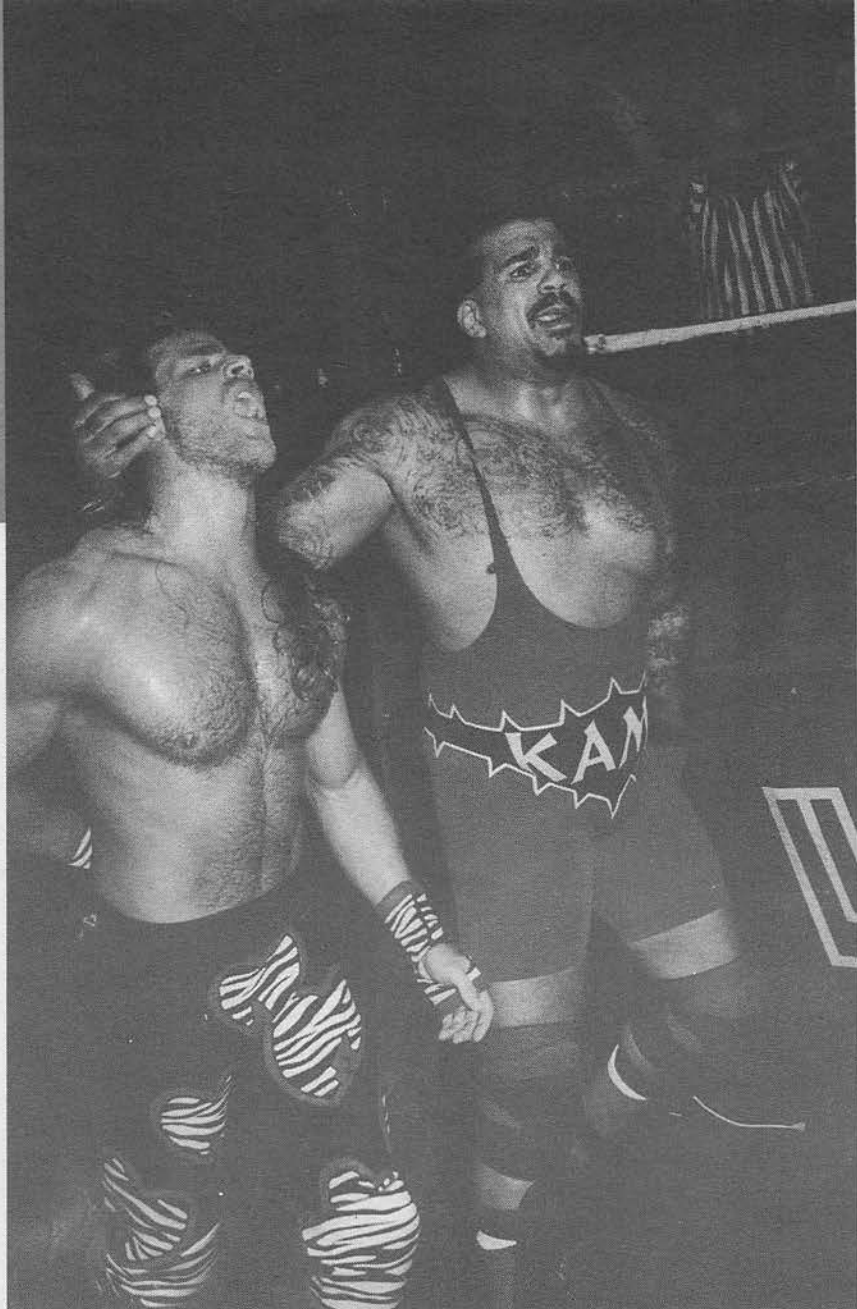
The taste of the WWF's new

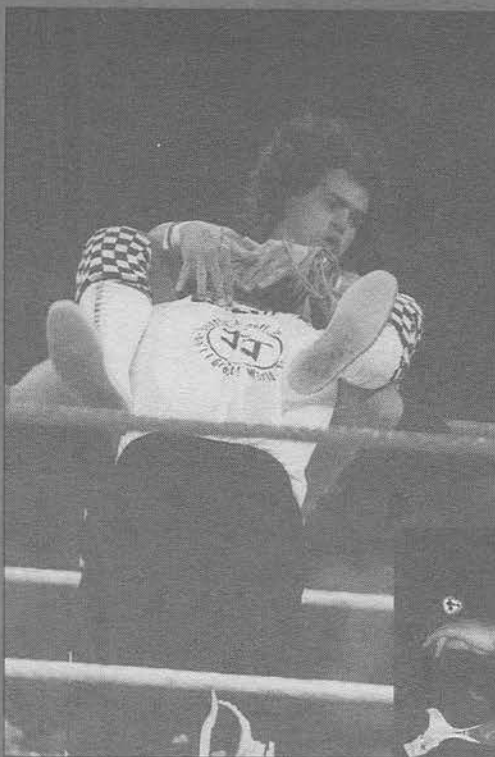
generation is very sweet, indeed.

"And don't forget Mabel," said WWF expert Thomas Pilliard. "He's only been around for about four years. To win such an important tournament this early in his career is a very impressive feat."

The Roadie, Holly, Vega, and Kama have less than five years of WWF experience combined. Gee! Wow! Goody goody! Not only is the WWF's new generation sweet, it's neat, too!

How about Savio! Razor



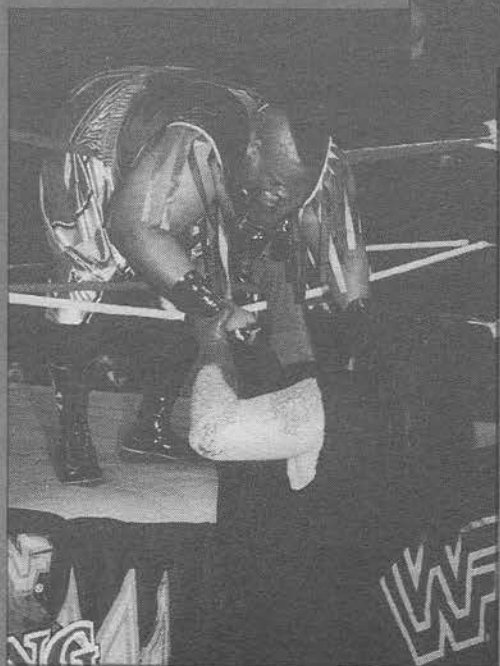


Less than six weeks after he made his WWF debut, Savio Vega was throwing around 568-pound former WWF World champion Yokozuna. Imagine how good he could be once he has a year or two of experience in the federation.

Neither The Roadie nor Bob Holly had wrestled a significant singles pay-per-view match in their lives before King of the Ring. They should have looked shaky and nervous. Instead they both shined in a brilliant match.



A lot of people booed when Mabel upset The Undertaker in the first round. Maybe the man from the dark side underestimated the power of the "New Generation."



Ramon helped him overcome interference by Owen Hart, then Vega got a little help from his friend the ringpost. Yokozuna accidentally rammed into the outer post and knocked himself out, so Vega won by countout. You know what they say: The ringpost is part of a wrestler's equipment!

Vega again overcame interference in the semifinals, this time by Jeff Jarrett on behalf of The Roadie. Jarrett grabbed Vega's ankle so that The Roadie could attack him from behind, but Vega escaped and Roadie had a head-on collision with Jarrett. They looked like they needed passenger and driver's side air bags!

Vega didn't run out of luck against Mabel. He simply ran out of steam against the 503-pound ebony elephant, and Mabel won his first King of the Ring championship.

Michaels and Kama wrestled the best match of the night. It was "Heartbreak Kid" vs. "Million-Dollar Man's" Kid for 15 heart-stopping minutes. Kama dominated the opening nine minutes and basically abused Michaels. Michaels finally reversed the momentum and scored a couple of two-counts, but Kama bravely persevered. He reversed a sunset flip for a two-count, then kicked out of a pin attempt by Michaels with 16 seconds remaining. Time ran out when Michaels had a two-count on Kama.

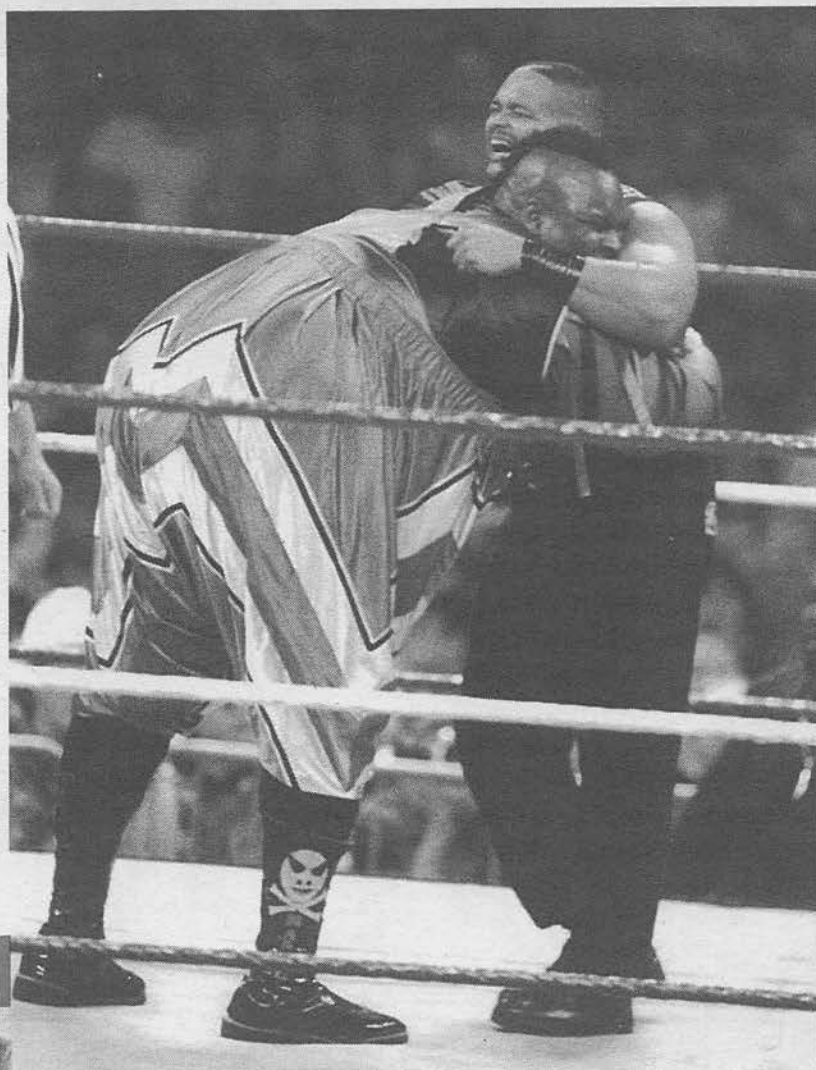
Although Kama didn't win, he didn't lose, either, and DiBiase finally had somebody to be proud of.

The Roadie might have fared better against Savio had Jarrett not gotten involved. "Double-J" pretty much stayed out of the quarterfinal match, when The Roadie connected with a boot to

Holly's chest and covered him for the pin at 7:29. It was one of those rare instances when both wrestlers were in the most important match of their young careers, and a victory by either man would have been notable. It'll be interesting to see where Holly goes from here.

Actually, it'll be downright fascinating. Our spark plugs are humming, and our engines are revving for the rest of the year, as these great young athletes continue their climb up the WWF ladder. We can't remember when wrestling had so much young talent to get excited about. It makes us want to cry with happiness. Please tell us we're not dreaming!

Vega! Kama! Roadie! Holly! Mabel! Will they be the stars of tomorrow? The WWF hopes so. The WWF thinks so. We'll watch, wait, and see. □



Mabel's bearhug just took too much strength out of Vega (above, right), and the super heavy-weight from Harlem (right) was crowned 1995 King of the Ring. This upset was good news for the WWF.



*One Defense In Four Months?!*

# STRIP HOGAN OF THE TITLE— NOW!

WCW World

champion

Hulk Hogan is in

another one of his

legendary

inactive stages.

Instead of

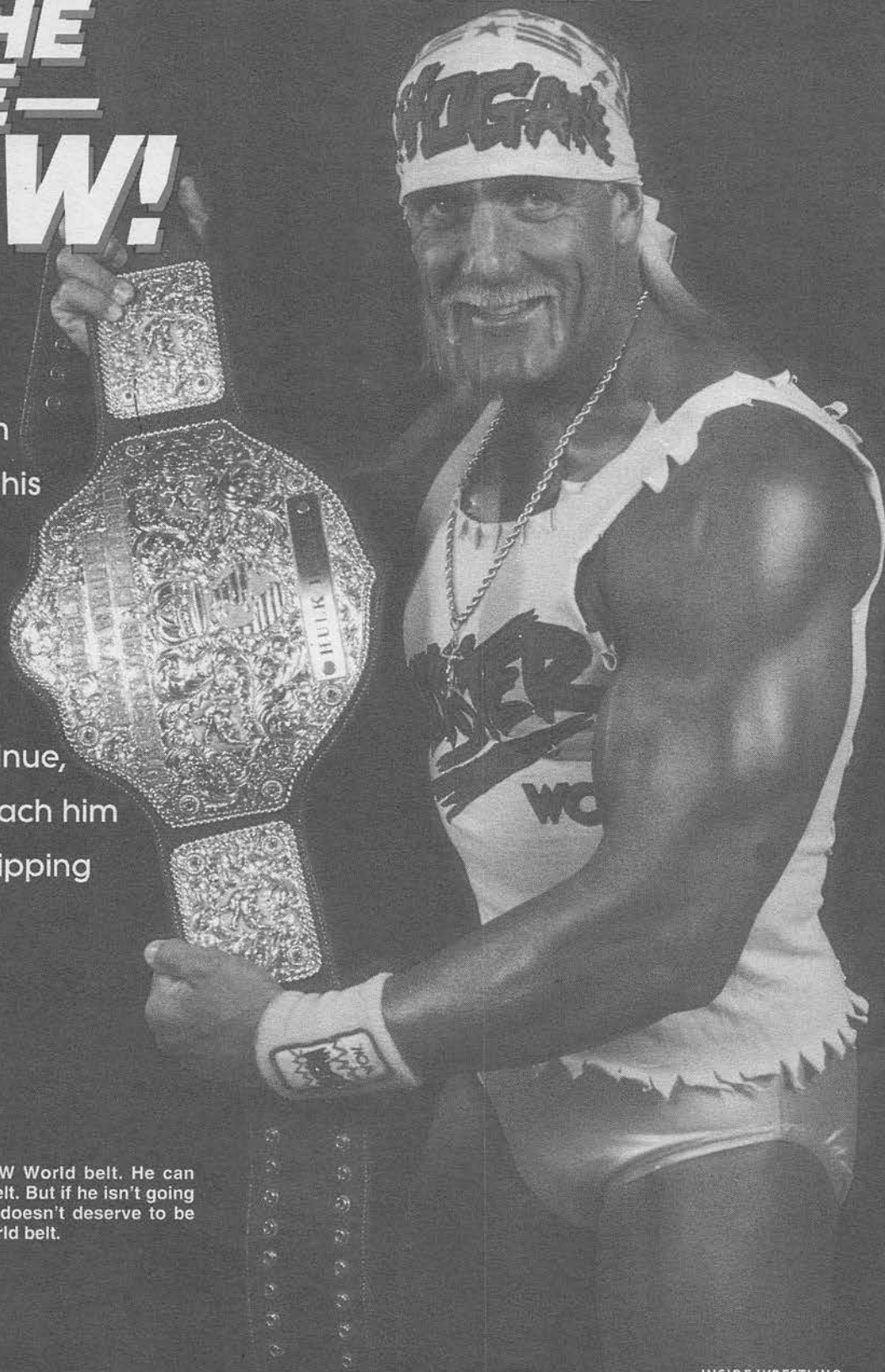
allowing this

travesty to continue,

WCW should teach him

a lesson—by stripping

him of the belt



Hulk Hogan won the WCW World belt. He can hold up the WCW World belt. But if he isn't going to defend it regularly, he doesn't deserve to be the holder of the WCW World belt.

**S**TOP THE INSANITY! No, this isn't an infomercial. This is an impassioned plea to the folks at WCW to restore some badly needed credibility with a simple enforcement of the rules. The federation must put aside the dollar signs that are dancing inside its collective head, turn a deaf ear to the public outcry it is sure to encounter, and do the only thing that's right.

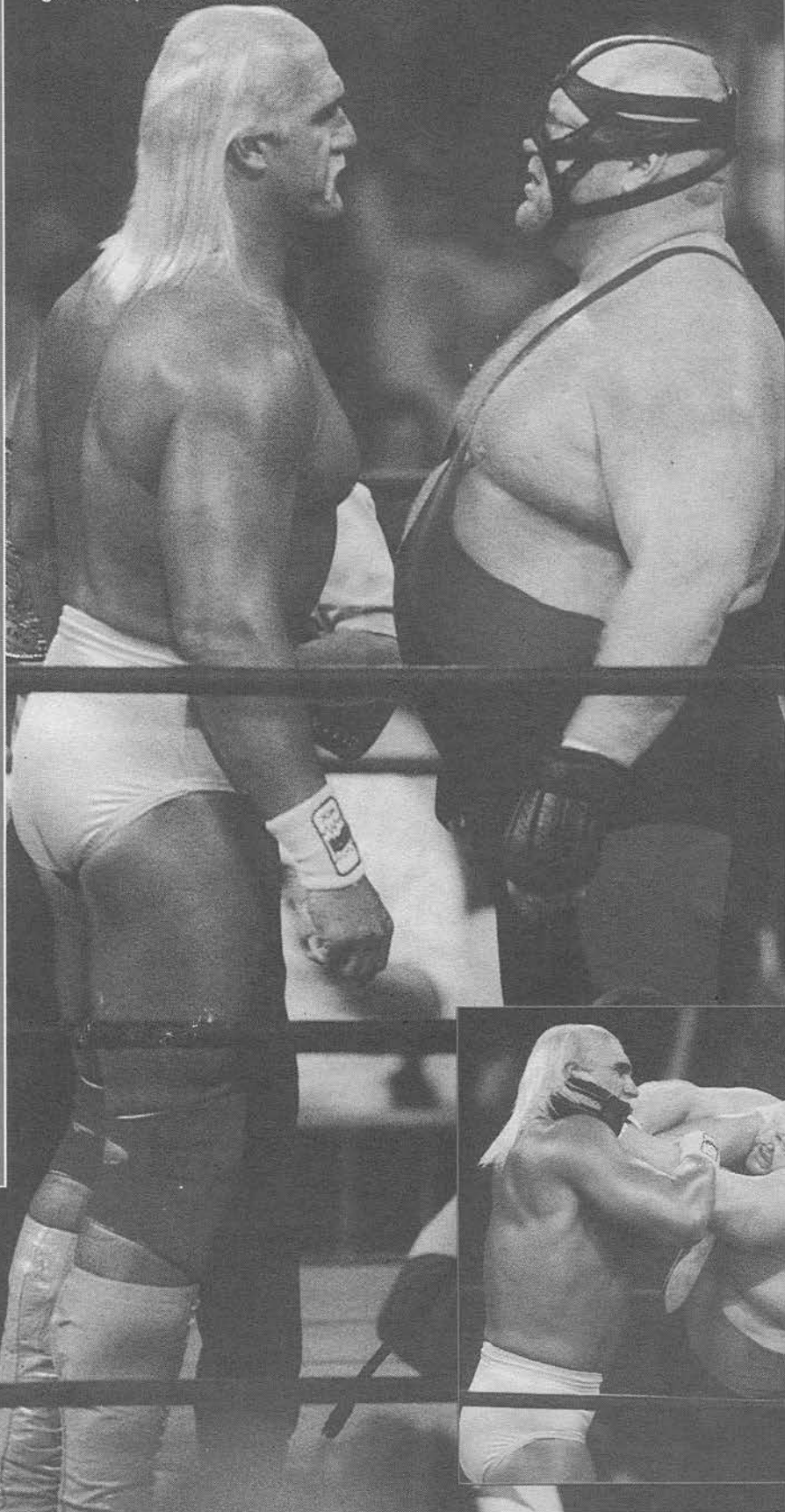
Hulk Hogan has consistently failed to meet title defense requirements of every WCW champion. For this transgression, WCW has no choice but to strip Hogan of his World title.

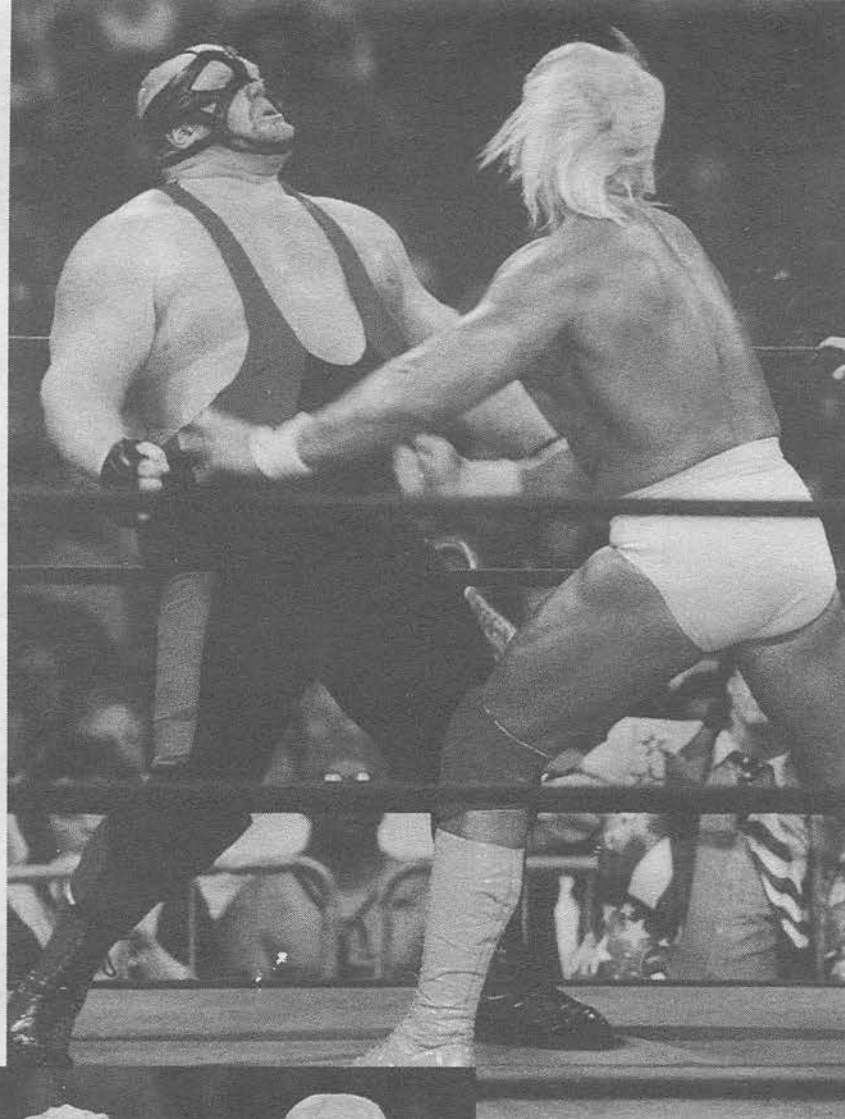
"That's a pretty bold statement," Sting said. "Why would you want to do that? Hogan's been a good champion."<sup>5</sup>

Actually, Hogan's been a great champion—when he's defending the title. Unfortunately, those occurrences have become almost as rare as lunar eclipses. A thorough check of the results show that while the "Hulkster" was scheduled to face Big Van Vader in a cage match at Bash at the Beach just after press time, he hadn't defended his WCW World title prior to that since late-February. Worse yet, he doesn't seem like he's in any hurry to make many title defenses in the immediate future.

Vader wasn't able to overpower Hogan when they finally did lock up (inset). In fact, the "Hulkster" has held his own against Vader every time they've met. Makes you wonder why he is so reluctant to defend the title.

After being accused for months of ducking Big Van Vader, Hulk Hogan finally went nose-to-nose with him at SuperBrawl V in February. Defending the World title against a top contender—what a novel idea!





Repeated punches (above) and eye gouges (left) usually aren't effective against Vader. Those methods have worked for Hogan, though. We wonder if he'd be able to hold off Vader if he wrestled him more than once every few months.

"What are you talking about?" said manager Jimmy Hart, who also has to be assessed part of the blame for Hogan's poor ring attendance record. "Hulk's wrestled plenty of times in the last four months. He beat Vader. He beat Vader and Flair. What else do you want him to do?"

Well, James, for starters, we'd like him to defend the belt within the parameters of federation rules. Hart can point to as many of Hogan's matches as he likes, but in none of those bouts was the title on the line. In other words, Hogan was assured of entering and leaving the ring as champion regardless of the outcome.

There is nothing wrong with a champion taking a non-title match here and there, or dabbling in tag team bouts just to stay sharp and loose. And there is also nothing wrong with the endless war of words that goes on between champion and challenger, as long as their differences eventually are settled in the ring. But Hogan has wasted the last four months staring into a camera instead of the eyes of a worthy opponent.

"He spends an awful lot of time talking about being champion, but I don't see him fighting like a champion," Big Van Vader said. "When is the last time he defended the belt? Last year? I can't even remember!"

We hate to refresh Vader's memory in this fashion, but Hogan's last pay-per-view title defense was against ... Vader at SuperBrawl. The ensuing week saw the "Hulkster" able to fend off Vader in title matches in Chicago and Detroit. As of the end of June, those were the last times the WCW World title was on the line.

Hogan wrestled Vader in a strap match at WCW Uncensored, but

that match was not sanctioned by the federation, and therefore the title was not up for grabs. Hogan teamed with old buddy Randy Savage in a bout against Vader and Ric Flair at Slamboree, but that was a tag team match and the title, of course, was not up for grabs. Arena cards? Hogan can rarely fit those into his busy schedule, though he can find time to cheer on his buddy Shaquille O'Neal at Orlando Arena during the NBA playoffs.

How much time has passed since Hogan defended the title? In late-February, the average American knew nothing about militias, the jury in the O.J. Simpson trial still had plenty of alternates, and Clyde Drexler was a member of the Portland Trail Blazers.

An embarrassing situation became almost comical when Hogan did not even compete at The Great American Bash on June 18 in Dayton, Ohio. Hogan's refusal raised an interesting question: When's the last time a major federation held a pay-per-view event in which its heavyweight champion did not wrestle?

"Hogan requested some time off, and his request was granted," an unidentified WCW official explained. "I don't see you guys taking the WWF to task when Bret Hart gets a sabbatical, or when Diesel gets time off because he hurt his elbow."

That's true, because Hart was a fighting champion and didn't take his sabbatical until he actually lost the belt. He observed WWF regulations and didn't cheat the fans. Hogan treats the defense of the WCW World title as if it is some union-protected civil service job, complete with preordained lunch hours, coffee breaks, and vacations. And WCW lets him get away with it.

It is no secret that any WCW

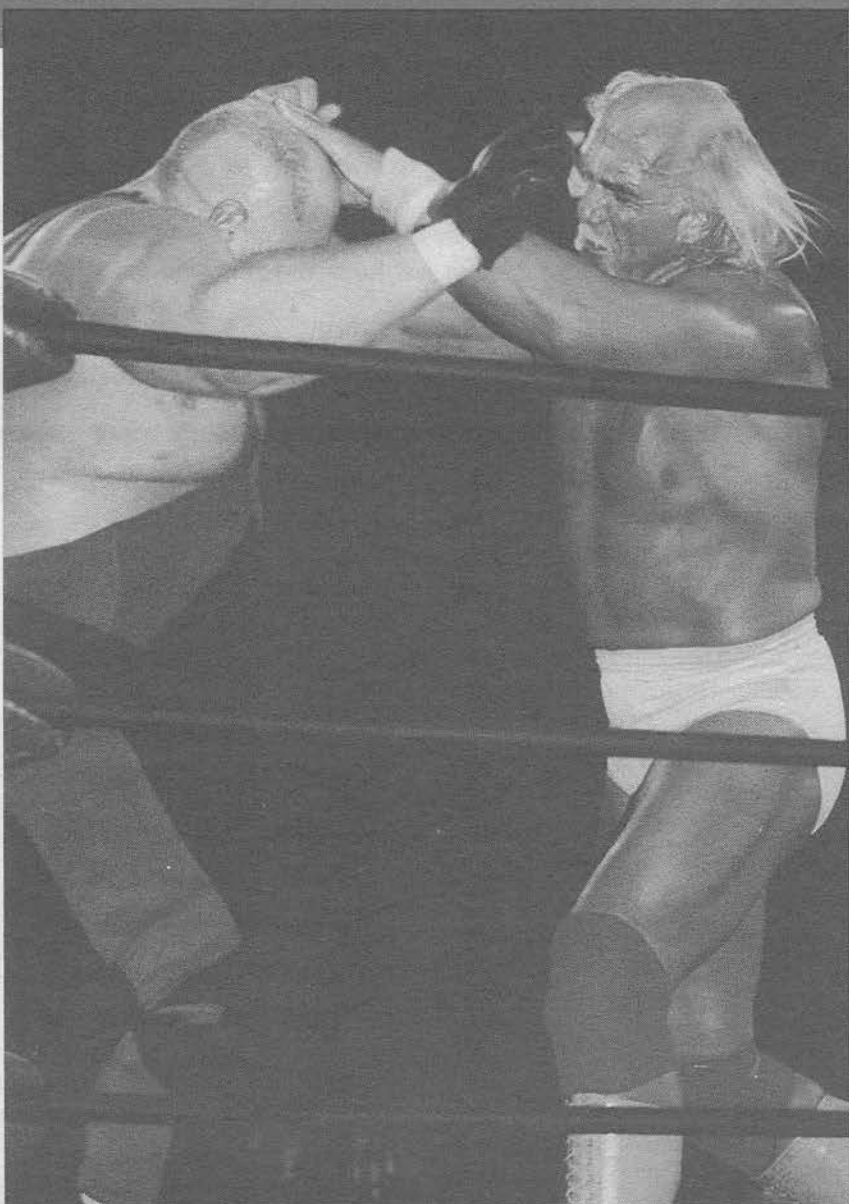
champion must defend his title at least once every 30 days or be stripped of that title, and we have seen the federation enforce that rule on many occasions in the past. WCW has yet to enforce it on Hogan, who as champion has given the company's bottom line an added boost, but is directly violating the rule.

Perhaps WCW does not realize that, by failing to enforce its rules, the one suffering from an image problem is not Hogan, but the fed-

eration itself. WCW stands for World Championship Wrestling, but how can that be the title of an organization whose World champion does not wrestle?

We can only hope that Hogan will defend his title at the next pay-per-view event, and the next, and the next. And maybe even put it on the line a few times between pay-per-views. Until then, WCW has practically guaranteed that we are more likely to see his face on a milk carton. □

As of press time, Hogan had yet to defeat Vader by pinfall, but WCW officials still weren't pressuring him to wrestle Vader more. It's only making the whole federation look bad.



# TATANKA

**"THE BOTTOM LINE IS MONEY"**

**T**HERE WAS A time, not long ago, when Tatanka was considered the next great Native American wrestler. His name was mentioned in the same breath with Wahoo McDaniel and Chief Jay Strongbow, the two greatest Native American stars in history, and he was respected by most wrestling fans. Tatanka preached honor and courage. He respected his heritage and, by doing so, respected himself.

But something went very wrong along the way. Perhaps frustrated by his inability to work his way to the top of the WWF ladder, Tatanka sold out. He joined Ted DiBiase's Million-Dollar Corporation last August and just about forgot about his heritage. Now Tatanka worships the almighty dollar.

It hasn't been a smooth transition. Although he receives a hefty salary from DiBiase, Tatanka's wins

are fewer and further between than they used to be. DiBiase got so angry with his Corporation's first quarter performance in 1995 that he called a meeting and told Tatanka, Irwin R. Schyster, Sid Vicious, Kama, and King Kong Bundy that it was time for them to start winning.

We'll see how Tatanka responds. Recent performances haven't been encouraging. He has suffered losses to Davey Boy Smith, and a partnership with Sid Vicious has been promising, but so far not fruitful. Tatanka is a mid-carder again.

Senior Editor Bill Apter caught up with Tatanka during the WWF's Hall of Fame Dinner. Apter, who has known Tatanka for years, was taken aback by Tatanka's arrogance. In this interview, the new Tatanka comes across loud and clear.

**Q:** You know, Tatanka, I look around this room and see some of the greatest wrestling heroes of all-time. Isn't it an amazing sight?

**A:** Who cares? Look at these people. So many of them are just a bunch of losers.

**Q:** Losers? How can you say that? Look at who's here! These aren't losers. They're some of the greatest stars in wrestling history.

**A:** Let me see their bank statements. That'll tell you if they're winners or losers.

**Q:** Is that all that matters to you these days?

**A:** It is all that has ever mattered since I met Ted DiBiase and he set me straight on how things are judged.

**Q:** But we can make our own judgments, can't we?

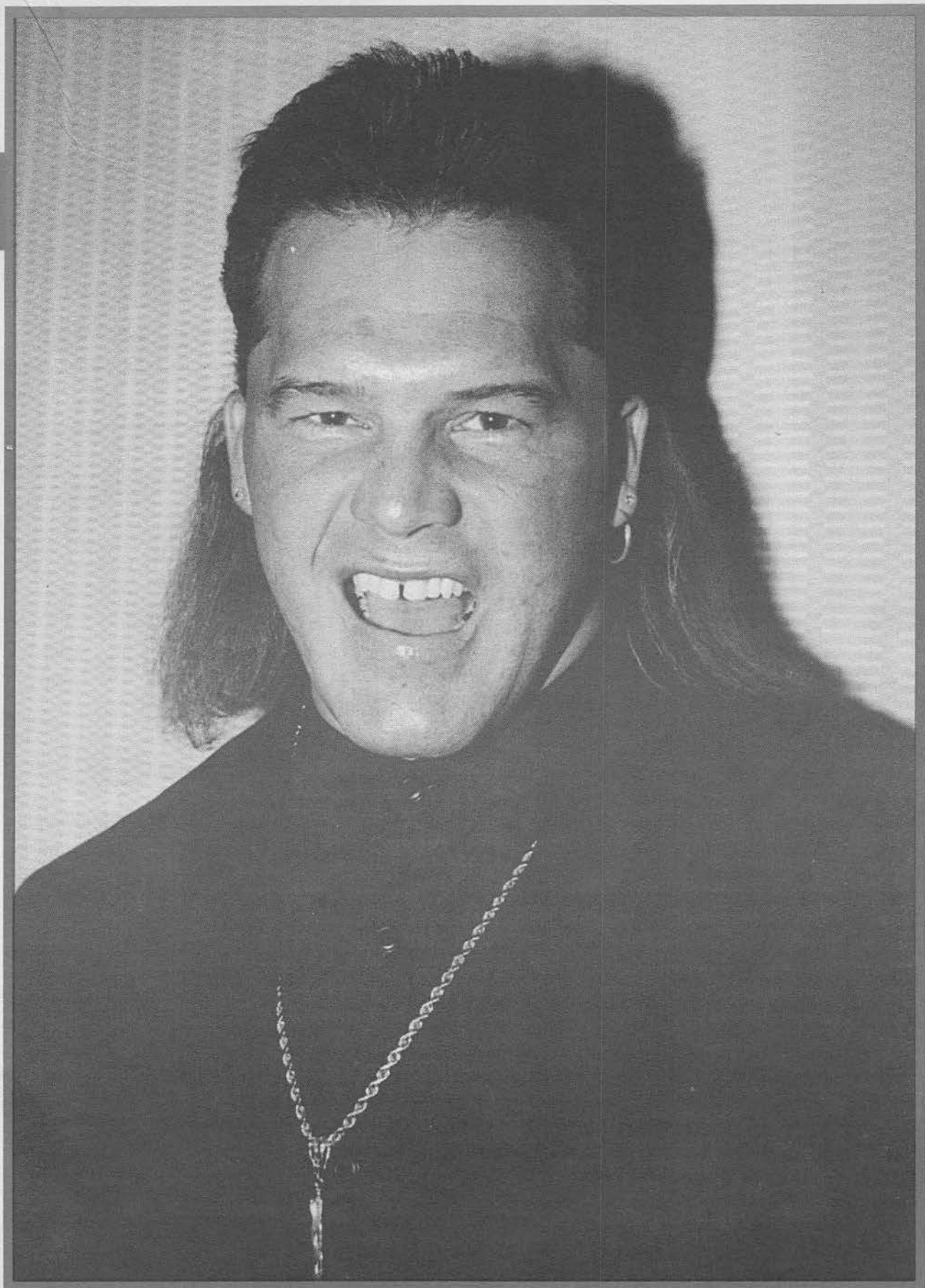
**A:** You can make whatever judgments you want, Apter. I make mine and you make yours.

**Q:** Well, since we're here at a din-

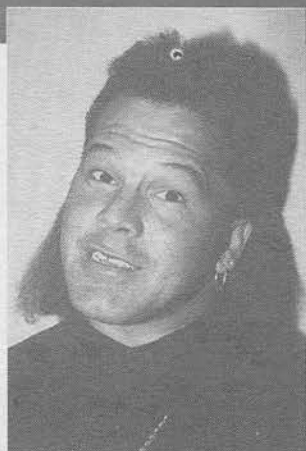
**Life is possessions,  
and possessions  
are money. The  
people who learn  
that the earliest  
are the people  
who make it  
the furthest  
in this world!**

ner honoring some of the WWF's legends, I have to ask you about your former mentor, Chief Jay Strongbow, a man who was inducted into the WWF Hall of Fame last year. Don't you know it makes him sick to see you with Ted DiBiase?

**A:** I don't care. He should have learned a long time ago that it's best to look out for yourself. He doesn't need to worry about what I'm doing. I'm not a Chief Jay Strongbow clone. I'm my own man, and I make my own decisions and do what I want. If he wants to lay in bed all day and cry about the terrible things I've done, he's welcome to do it. If he has a problem with me, he's welcome to



**I look at where I was two years ago, and I know I'm a lot better off now. No comparison. You look at wins and losses. I look at dollars and cents.**



meet me in the ring and we can deal with our differences. If he gets in my way, he's gonna get hurt. I've already taken a few shots at him, and I'll never regret it. He's an old man. Call him a legend if you want. I have no use for him anymore, unless he wants to go to work for me. Maybe he could clean my house or something.

**Q:** *I don't think he'd be interested in that. How would you judge your recent activity? You've been doing a lot more losing than winning, and you didn't even try to qualify for the King of the Ring tournament.*

**A:** Is that how you judge me, with some stupid King of the Ring tournament? It doesn't matter. You look at my record and you see that I have lost some

matches recently ...

**Q:** *Actually, from what I've heard, Ted DiBiase's looking at your record and seeing the same thing, and he's not too happy about it.*

**A:** He explained to me what he wants from me, and I told him what I want from him, and what we said is none of your business. The only thing I know is that I'm still getting my paycheck, and it's a lot bigger than yours.

**Q:** *Well, it's supposed to be. You're a professional athlete.*

**A:** And it's a lot bigger than it was before, too. I look at where I was two years ago, and I know I'm a lot better off now. No comparison. You look at wins and losses. I look at dollars and cents. The bottom line is money. That's what I tell all those stupid little kids who come up to me and ask me for my autograph. They ask me why I sold out to Ted DiBiase. I tell them the bottom line is money. It's what matters most. You know the line from the movie *Wall Street*. The Michael Douglas character says that greed is good. I agree.

**Q:** *As Cyndi Lauper once said, money changes everything.*

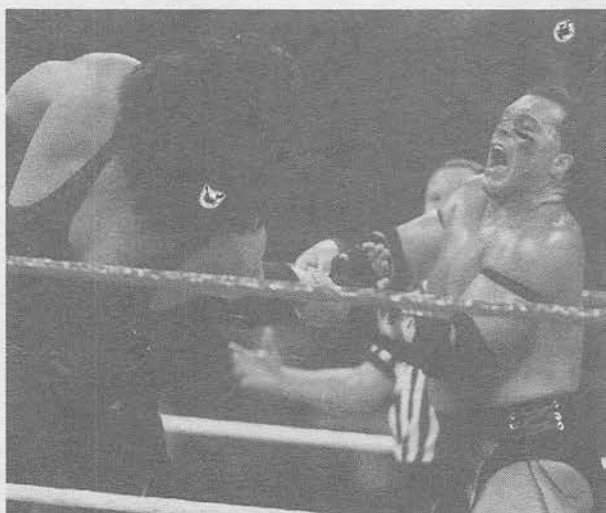
**A:** No, money is everything.

**Q:** *Everything? More important than your Native American heritage?*

**A:** Money has always been everything, and even my ancestors



Tatanka's partnership with Sid Vicious (above) hasn't been too successful. And he doesn't buy the argument that Ted DiBiase is feeding him to Diesel (below) with hopes that he'll soften up the WWF champ for Sid.



knew that. Everybody thinks they got ripped off for selling Manhattan Island for like \$24. But the land meant nothing to them.

**Q:** *Actually, that's not a bad point.*

**A:** Everything is for sale. Take the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock. The first year, my people gave them dinner for Thanksgiving. They let them share in the harvest. But from that point on, their services were for sale. The Pilgrims didn't get anything for nothing.

**Q:** *I've never heard that version of history.*

**A:** That's only because it doesn't go along with your

fairy tale vision of life, Apter, but that's the way it's been since the beginning of time. If it wasn't money, it was products or whatever the currency of the day was. Life is possessions, and possessions are money. The people who learn that the earliest are the people who make it the furthest in this world! The people who never learn that are like you, idealists who are perfectly willing to do something for nothing. I learned it late, but at least I learned it from a great man—a great man named Ted DiBiase.

**Q:** *Ted DiBiase never would've sold Manhattan for \$12.*

**A:** No, we would have bought it for \$12 and resold it for \$10-billion.

**Q:** *Maybe so, but his acumen in all areas is very questionable at this time. Let's face it, his wrestling stable isn't exactly tearing apart the federation.*

**A:** You jump to conclusions too fast, Apter. You talk, but you don't think. You say the first thing that's on your mind. You must be patient. This is a Corporation of the best wrestlers in the WWF. You look around this room and you're in awe. Well, if you were in on one of our meetings, you would look around that room and feel the same way.

**Q:** *Why do I doubt that?*

**A:** Because you're shallow.

**Q:** *I'm shallow? I'm not the one who goes around doing DiBiase's dirty work. He tells you to attack Diesel, and you attack Diesel. You don't even think that the only thing he*

*wants to do is help Sid Vicious because he thinks Sid Vicious is the top man in the Million-Dollar Corporation. He was using you for Sid's gain.*

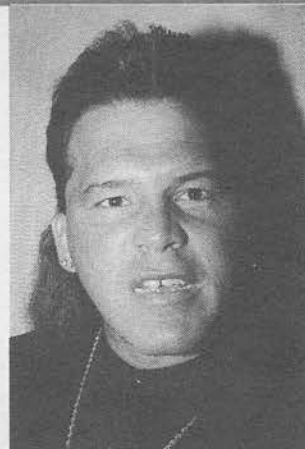
**A:** I do what's necessary to earn my paycheck. He wasn't using me. He paid me my salary, and I did exactly what he asked me to do. He got what he wanted, and my bank account got bigger.

**Q:** *But you're losing to Davey Boy Smith all the time. You and Sid have formed a pretty good tag team, but it doesn't look like it's going anywhere. You teamed with Kama, and that went nowhere. What are we to think? At one point you were one of the hottest stars in the sport, beloved by the fans. Now what?*

**A:** Now what? Back then I had love of the fans and no money. Now the fans hate me and I have money. What does that tell you about the fans? Back then I talked about honor and loyalty, but those were empty words. Now I have something tangible.

**Q:** *You think it's tangible.*

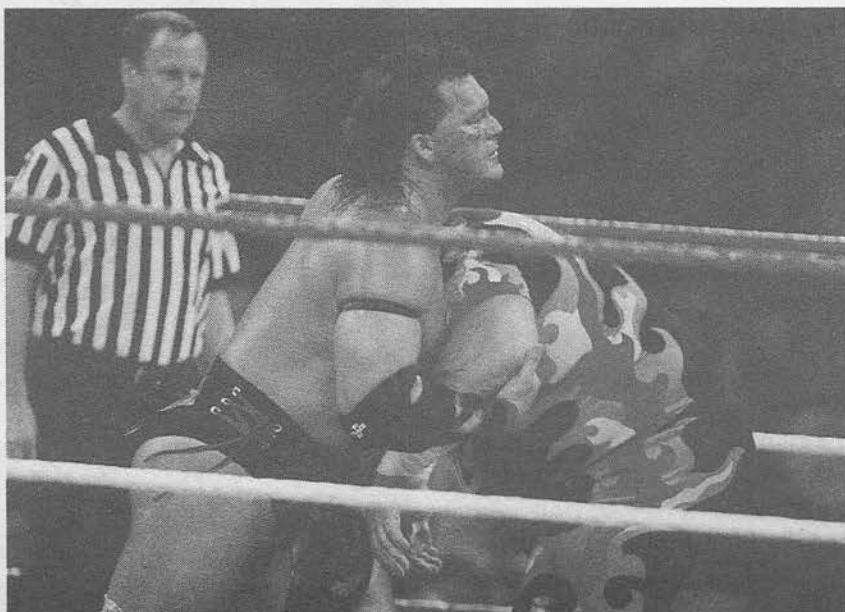
**Back then I had love of the fans and no money. Now the fans hate me and I have money. What does that tell you about the fans?**



**A:** I know. I've been on both sides. Everybody has this image of the poor, drunk Indian. I don't fit that typical image, do I?

**Q:** *No, you don't.*

**A:** Then I've made it. □



Tatanka has struggled against Bam Bam Bigelow and most of his other opponents in 1995. Nonetheless, he insists that DiBiase isn't at all upset with him.

# From Snapping Necks To Cashing Checks? **THE MILLION-DOLLAR RECRUITMENT OF CHRIS\$ BENOIT**

Photos by John S. Pithers  
& Jason Ross Lavin

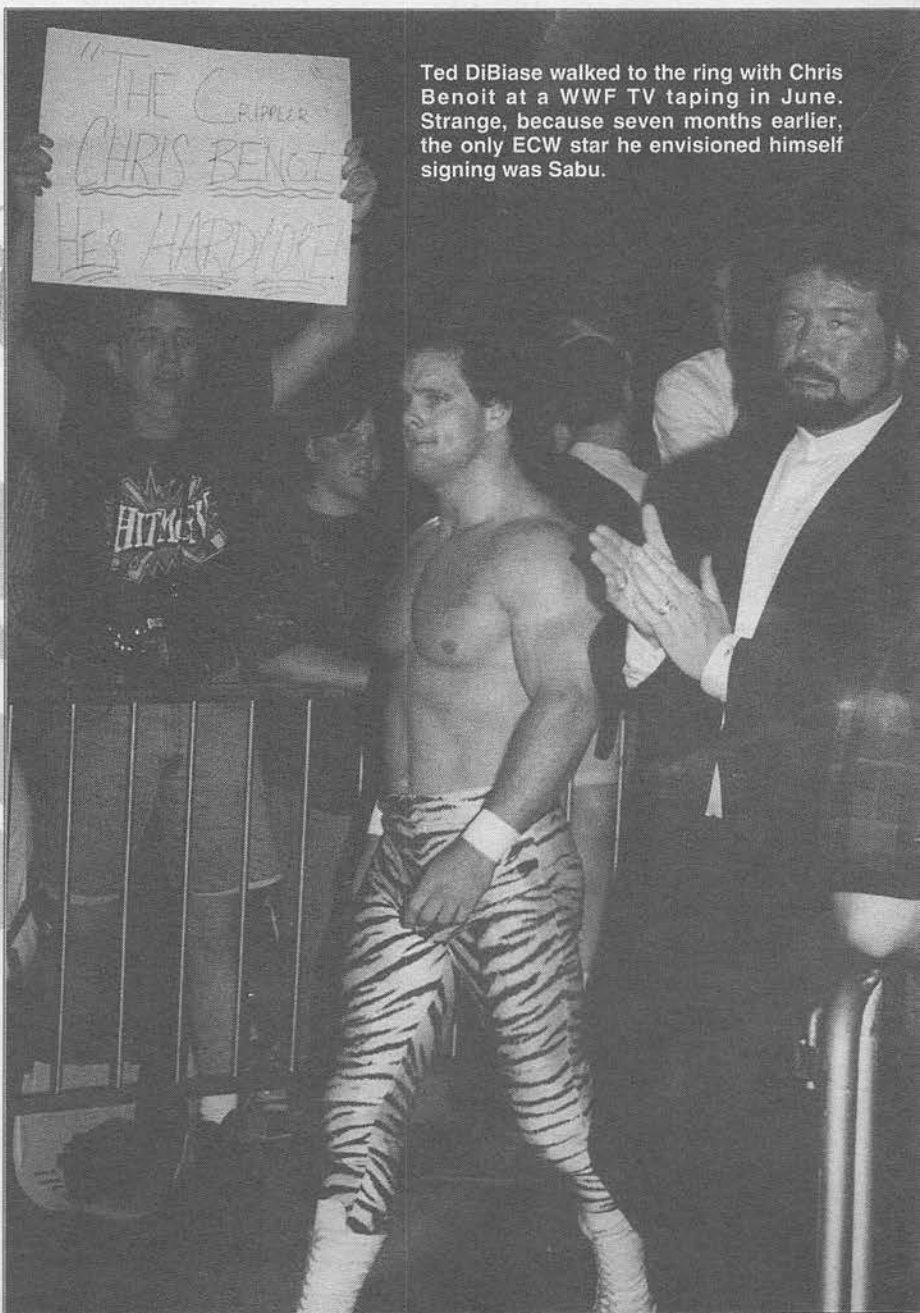
With one grotesque motion, ECW's Chris Benoit got the attention of power broker Ted DiBiase and may have dramatically increased his fortunes—as a WWF rulebreaker!

By Chris Bernucca

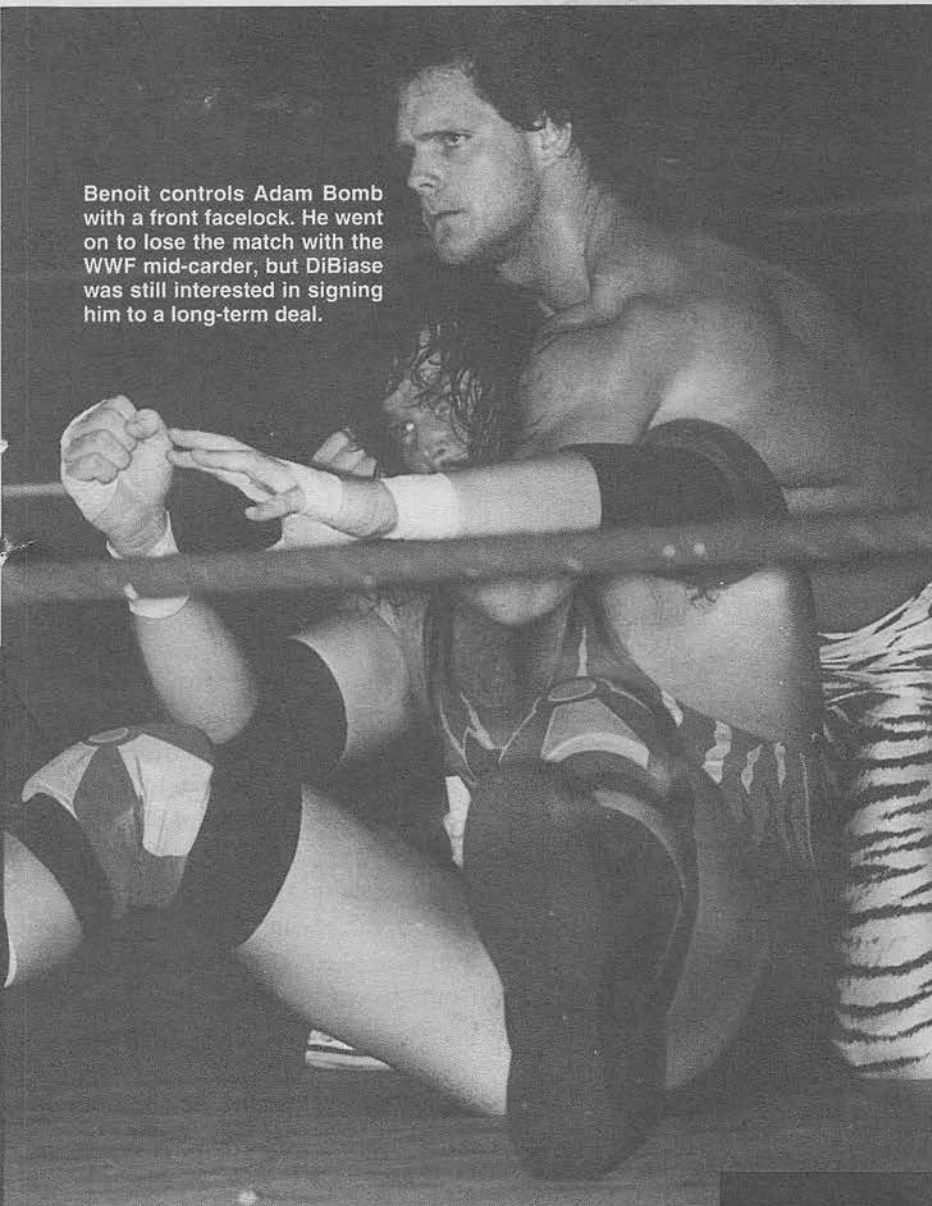
**"G**IMME A BREAK!" has been the complaint of Chris Benoit ever since he arrived on the American wrestling scene. Apparently he has finally gotten one—by giving one himself.

If you read the small print of results in *Pro Wrestling Illustrated's* "Arena Reports," you may have noticed that Benoit made his WWF debut at television tapings in June. It was nothing he will care to remember. Benoit wrestled three matches, losing to Sparky Plugg, Owen Hart, and Adam Bomb.

Ted DiBiase walked to the ring with Chris Benoit at a WWF TV taping in June. Strange, because seven months earlier, the only ECW star he envisioned himself signing was Sabu.



Benoit controls Adam Bomb with a front facelock. He went on to lose the match with the WWF mid-carder, but DiBiase was still interested in signing him to a long-term deal.



Benoit was able to outbrawl and dominate Bomb, who is eight inches taller and 74 pounds heavier, when the match spilled out of the ring. Benoit's technical skills and killer instinct are what interest DiBiase most.

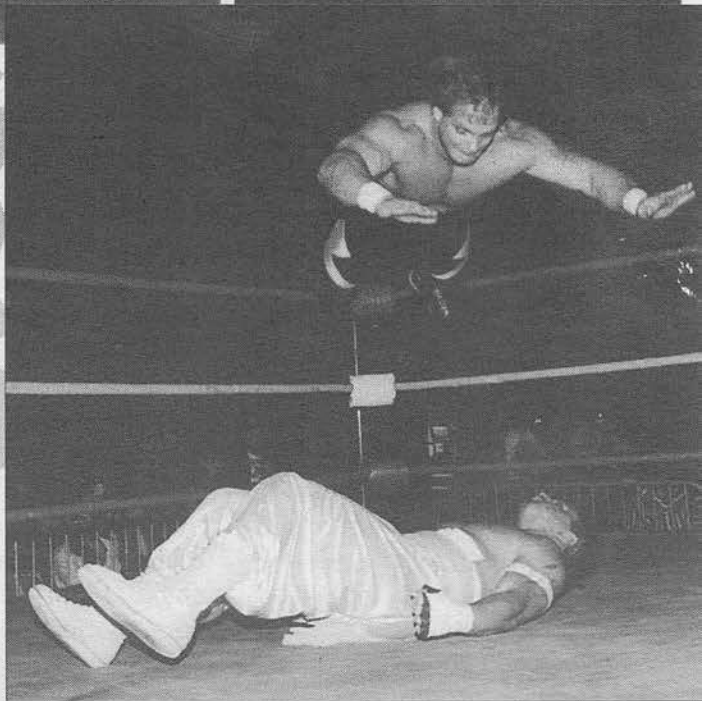


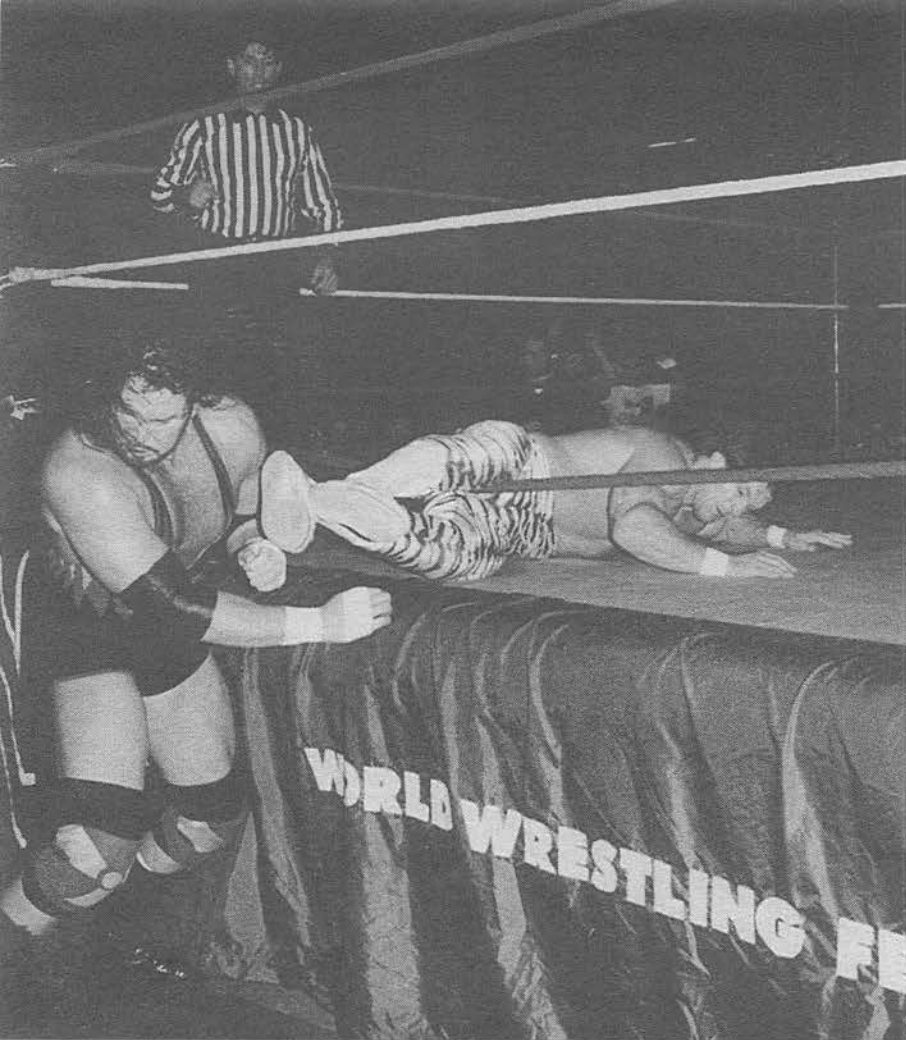
The second loss, to Bomb, was pretty unmemorable, save for the fact that Benoit had the corner support of none other than Ted DiBiase. When the head of the Million-Dollar Corporation and the most influential manager in the WWF is by your side, you turn a few heads, win or lose.

"Yeah, what was up with that?" asked one WWF fan favorite. "I had barely heard of the guy and there's DiBiase at his side like a bodyguard or something. Is there anybody in wrestling he *hasn't* tried to put the touch on?"

Apparently not. DiBiase's appearance at ringside was the culmination of a recruitment that was both long

DiBiase had a close associate scout Sabu when he was wrestling Benoit last November. When he left the building that night, however, he was more impressed by Benoit, who had earned the nickname "The Crippler."





A sliding kick has Bomb reeling. Few have doubted Benoit's quickness and athletic ability during his nine-year career. It took one crushing suplex for him to get a major break, though.

and lucky. Many view DiBiase as a slimy character, but his tentacles reach far and possess a powerful grip.

But it was not Benoit whom DiBiase was looking to lock up. The journeyman may have arrived in the WWF with a purpose, but how he got there was quite by accident. It all started last November 5 at an ECW card in Philadelphia. It is no secret that the major federations—the WWF and WCW—are constantly raiding regional promotions for new talent. They lure wrestlers with the promise of big paychecks, merchandising royalties, and national TV exposure.

"When you come right down to it, smaller promotions are a

tremendous source for the WWF and WCW," said USWA promoter Jerry Jarrett. "Keeping a smaller promotion stocked with talent is the toughest job in this sport, because you're always in danger of losing your best people to the big guys."

DiBiase had sent a henchman on a foray to Philadelphia; the "Million-Dollar Man" was looking for an addition to his Corporation. He had his eyes on Sabu, who was making quite a name for himself with his daredevil ways.

"I can't say I remember a guy dressed in a real expensive suit being at that card, because he's here so much, I lose track," said The Sandman. "He doesn't call attention to himself, but he lets us

know that he's in the house. I heard from a bunch of guys that he works for DiBiase. He always stands at the back of the crowd and takes notes. Guys turn it up a notch when he's here."

The word of DiBiase's associate's presence made its way to Benoit, who has long been projected as a superstar but come up just short. Benoit's career began in Canada and had taken him to Japan and Europe, among other places. He competed in WCW in 1992 and 1993, and by the time he left, he was a bitter man.

Benoit landed in ECW and was scheduled to take on Sabu on November 5. Knowing Camp DiBiase would be watching, Benoit wrestled the match of his life. He dominated from the outset and put Sabu away in spectacularly gruesome fashion, breaking a pair of vertebrae in Sabu's neck with a suplex. The madman from Bombay was in such agony that he was rushed to the hospital and replaced mid-match by 911. Benoit's performance earned him a new nickname: "The Crippler."

That ended DiBiase's pursuit of Sabu. It was believed at the time that he was damaged goods (though that, of course, was proven to be wrong). DiBiase's henchman made a mental note to himself and sought out Benoit after the card. The two were seen huddling briefly in the back corridors of the ECW Arena.

"Ted was definitely interested in Chris after hearing about that incident and seeing it on videotape," said a confidant of DiBiase. "He rarely throws away good and never tips his hand early. He had to be impressed. Very impressed."

However, sources say there were no conversations between them until recently, when Bam Bam Bigelow was booted from the

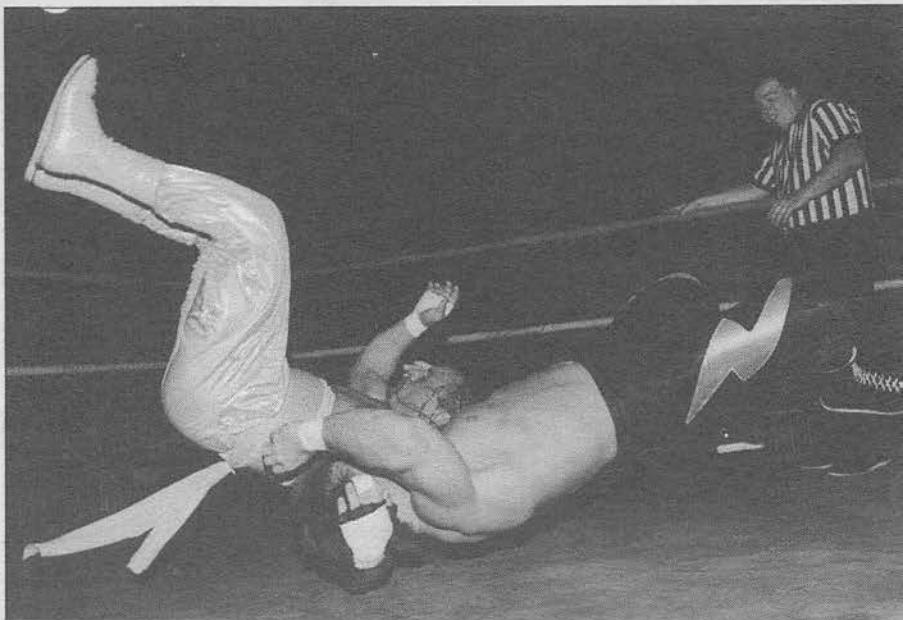
Million-Dollar Corporation following embarrassing losses to Lawrence Taylor and Diesel. The current members weren't exactly wreaking havoc, and DiBiase suddenly found himself down a man. In late-May, he opened the lines of discussion with Benoit.

A source close to the negotiations said it went down like this: DiBiase used his influence to make it easier for Benoit to receive a coveted WWF contract. In exchange, DiBiase arranged a deal with Benoit that was said to be rich with incentives, meaning that Benoit had to maintain a certain level of success in the WWF in order to become a full-fledged member of the Corporation. Benoit reportedly stalled and asked for more money.

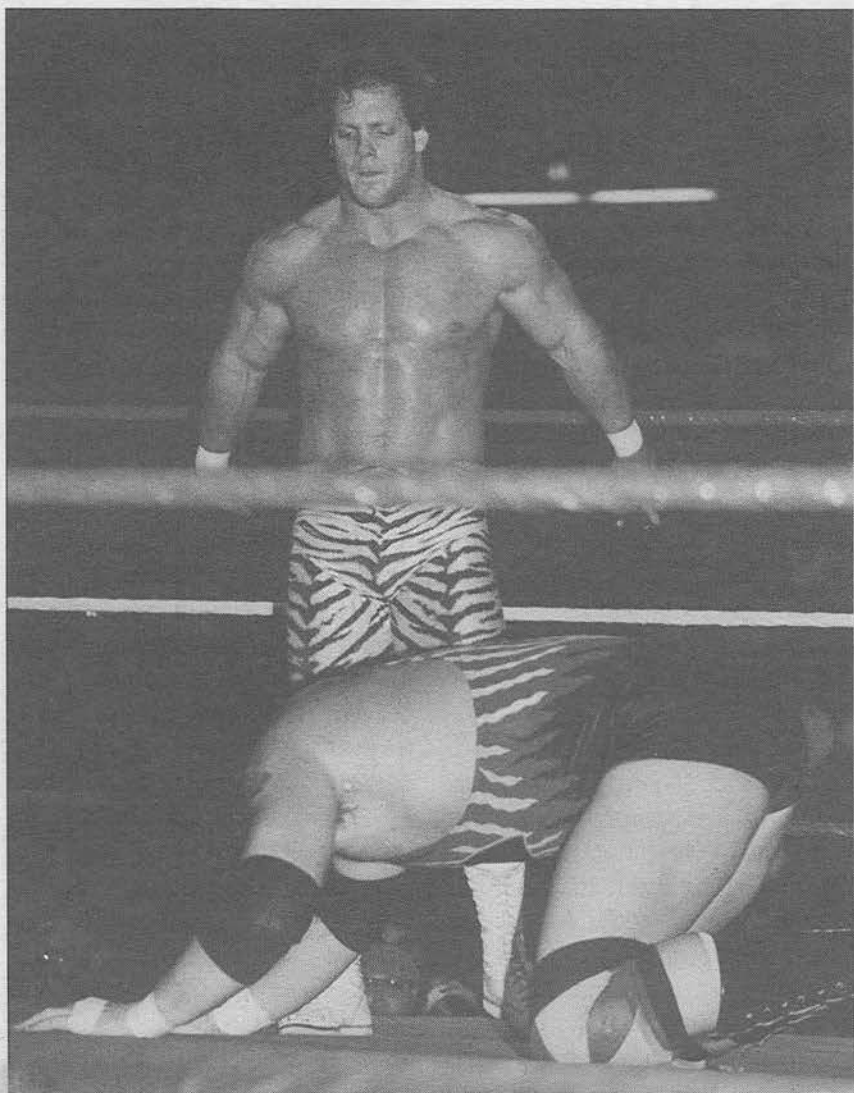
"It's a can't-lose deal for DiBiase," the source said. "If Benoit wins, DiBiase wins. If Benoit loses, DiBiase loses next to nothing. Plus, he gets a true read on how big a competitive fire burns inside Benoit. That's something he has questioned in just about everybody in his federation. He got burned once with Bigelow. He's too smart to get burned again."

Benoit had a rough debut in the WWF, but he has too much raw talent for that to continue. The moniker he received in ECW is actually a misnomer. Benoit is considered one of the best scientific wrestlers in the world and has always maintained that the only reason he has failed to win a major title was because he was a victim of the sport's politics.

Of course, being known as "The Crippler" for breaking an opponent's neck certainly doesn't hurt. And with DiBiase providing guidance, Chris Benoit may finally have the break he needs to become a champion.



Benoit knows he will need more than that devastating suplex (above) if he is to beat Bomb (below) and others on a consistent basis. As of press time, he hadn't even decided if he was going to join the WWF full-time.



Fatu and Sionne have been looking over their shoulders as of late. Not at the competition, but at a team that could replace them—with their manager's blessing. Capt. Lou Albano has been very busy playing ...

**By Steve Anderson**

**T**HERE IS NO discounting the potential for success of any Capt. Lou Albano-managed tag team.

There is also no discounting the lengths to which Albano will go to ensure the success of his teams. Many years ago, he was never shy about interfering in his teams' matches, and he used to employ all sorts of psychological tactics to keep his teams in line.

That was long ago. Now everyone raves about the new and improved Capt. Lou Albano. Lighter in weight, kinder in disposition.

Tell that to The Headshrinkers, Fatu and Sionne.

The headquarters of their federation, the WWF, is a long way from the headquarters of the American Wrestling Federation, an upstart independent based in Chicago. Most WWF superstars aren't concerned with the activities of rival promotions. Fatu and Sionne are a different story.

While some may call the AWF

a minor promotion, it boasts some major stars, including Sgt. Slaughter, Tito Santana, Greg Valentine, and The Samoan Swat Team. That's right—the S.S.T., the team that evolved into the original Headshrinkers, is tearing up the competition in the AWF.

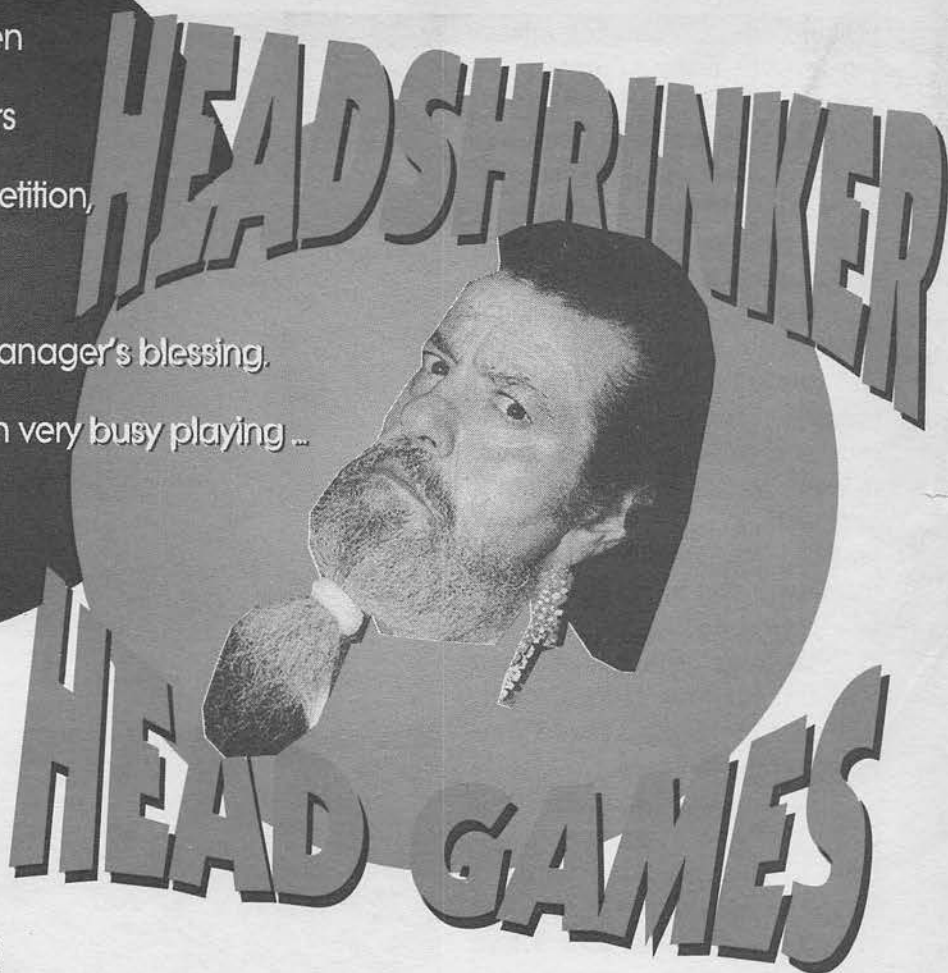
The new incarnation includes Samu, an original member of both teams, The Tonga Kid, and their manager, former Freebird Jimmy Garvin. The trio has been extremely successful. Capt. Lou couldn't be happier about that; The Headshrinkers couldn't be more concerned.

While Smoky Mountain and the USWA have good working relationships with the WWF, the AWF has no such arrangement. Capt. Lou took it upon himself to assemble a team out of his apparent

reach, yet easily accessible. He had his reasons.

The downward spiral of The Headshrinkers has been well-documented. Since Samu and Fatu lost the WWF World tag team title last August (and Albano subsequently replaced Samu with Sionne), the Samoan team has dropped key matches to lesser teams, teams that they should easily dominate. Albano was not happy about that. When The Headshrinkers wore the tag team gold, he almost always stood at ringside for their matches. Since they lost the belts, however, he has been practically invisible, guiding the team mostly from afar.

But Albano has always been a master manager with plenty of plan Bs, plan Cs, and plan Ds.



Enter Samu and Tonga, who easily live up to the reputation of the S.S.T./Headshrinkers. And with Garvin replacing Buddy Roberts (who briefly guided the original S.S.T.) as manager, Samu and Tonga are revisiting their roots with a Freebird at the helm.

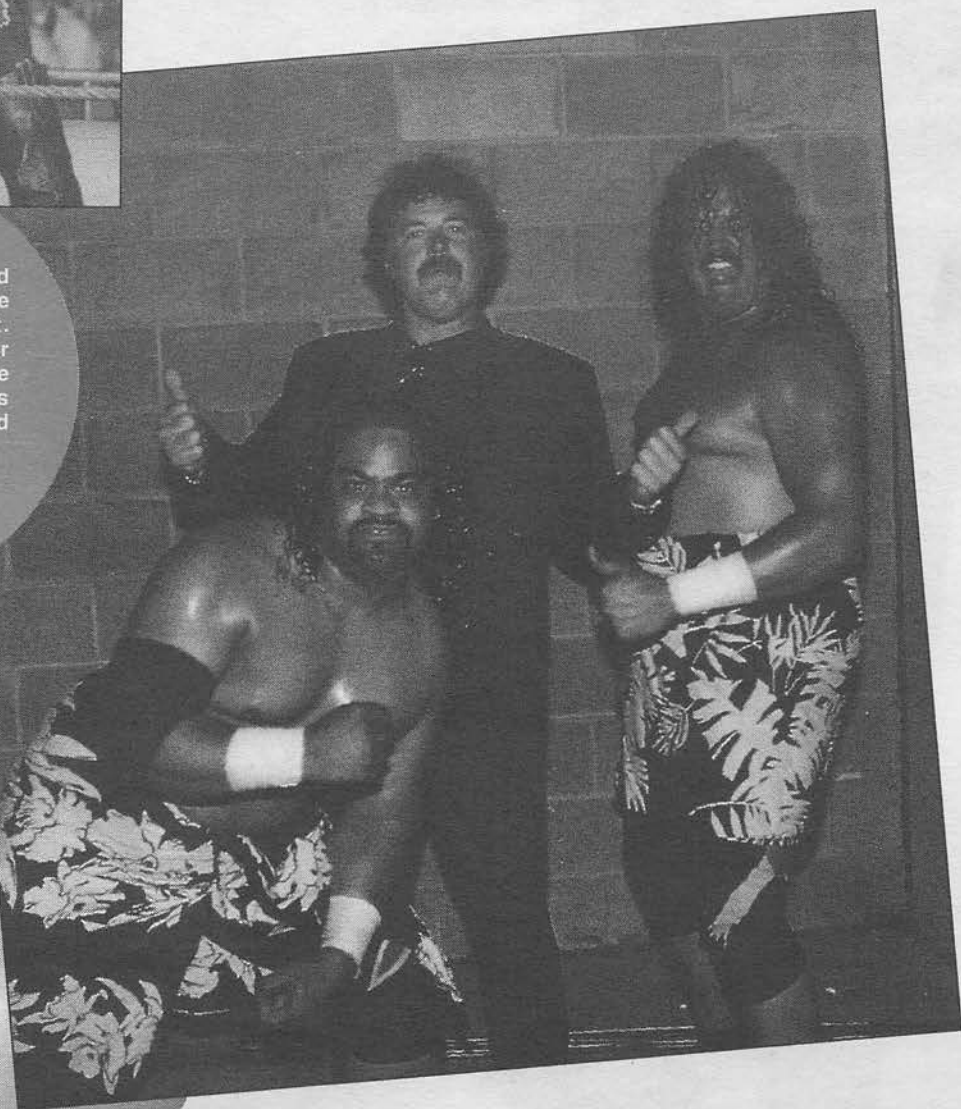
Albano is not hiding his intentions. He has made it clear to both Fatu and Sionne that if they don't improve their performances and become contenders, if not champions, again pronto, there is a team waiting in the wings who can easily assume the Headshrinker moniker. The Captain, in defending his actions, said this:

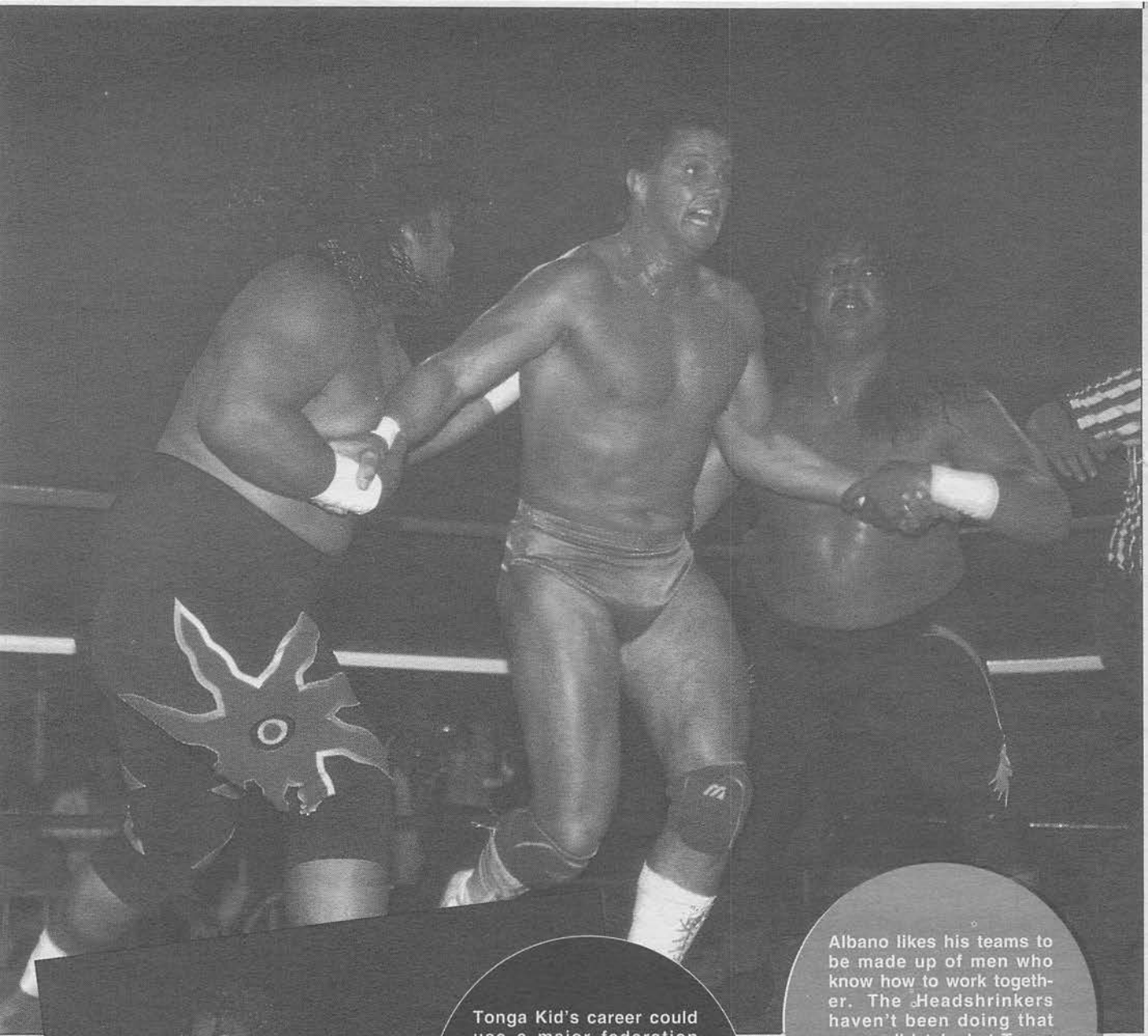
"Look, daddy, there were more than two Wild Samoans and more than two Moondogs. I'm just employing a strategy that I used in the past.

"What if Fatu or Sionne get injured?" he continued. "What if both are put out? I need a backup. If they feel nervous or threatened, then they should step it up a notch. I manage champions, baby, not chumps who are easily beaten. I never threatened them. I just made them aware of another team that I was looking at bringing in."

Threats or no threats, Albano's "strategy" is not helping The Headshrinkers win matches. Without his "Guiding Light" presence at ringside that they have

Tired of watching Sionne and his partner, Fatu, take poundings (above), Capt. Lou Albano is looking for other savages to replace his Headshrinkers. He likes the Jim Garvin-managed Samoan Swat Team (right).





Tonga Kid's career could use a major federation boost about now. If The Headshrinkers continue to fail Albano, he could be the ultimate winner in this round of Headshrinker head games!

Albano likes his teams to be made up of men who know how to work together. The Headshrinkers haven't been doing that very well lately, but Tonga Kid and Samu have. The AWF's Chris Adams (above) will tell you that.

become accustomed to, Fatu and Sionne are just another team. Albano's plan is turning into a self-fulfilling prophecy. If he sees a better team on the horizon, the decision to bring it to the WWF becomes easier when his original team continues to falter because of neglect and a lack of motivation.

"He likes what he sees," said Jimmy Garvin, referring to Albano.

"My S.S.T. has a better track record than The 'Shrinkers. They've wiped out almost all the competition in the AWF. Moving to the WWF would be the next logical step.

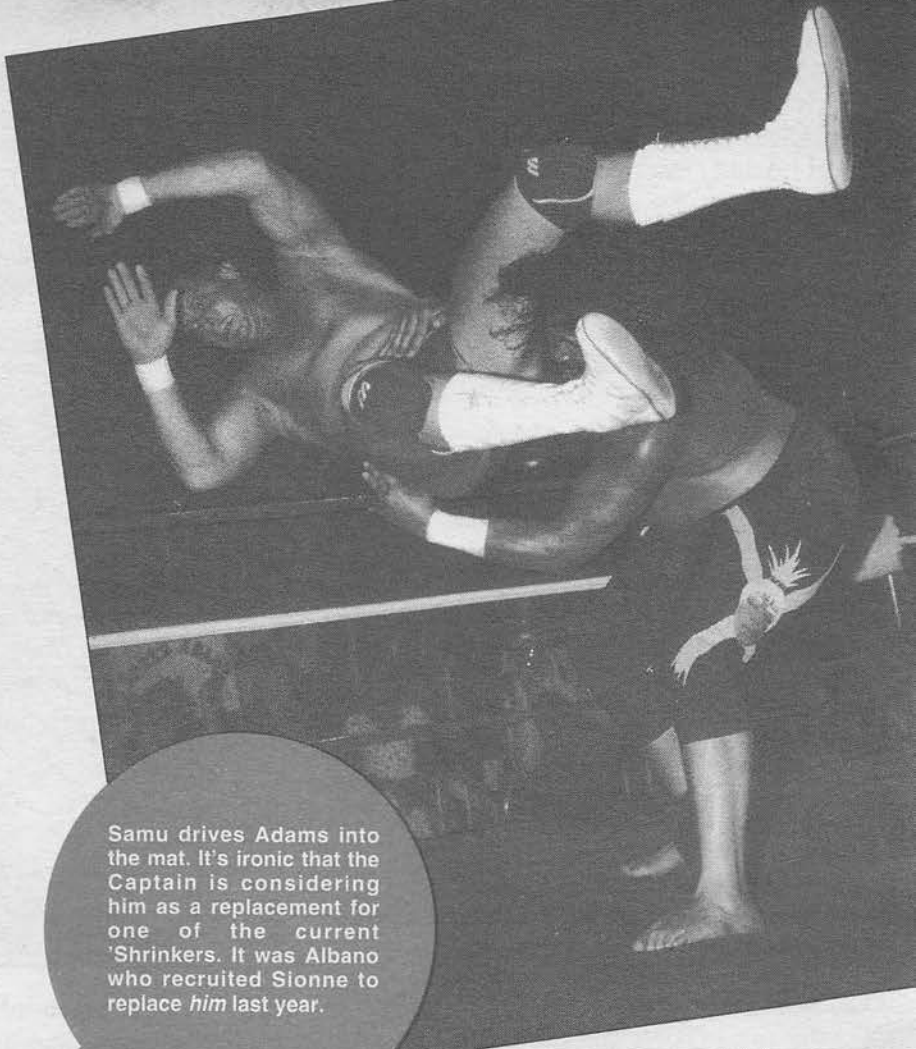
"Of course the fans aren't too bright," he continued. "Two Samoan teams would be too confusing and just wouldn't work. They couldn't tell 'em apart without a scorecard. You'd have to go with the better pair. And right now, it's my two men.

"Whenever I would come up short in a match, Albano would remind me of all the wrestlers he could bring in to replace me," said Greg Valentine, a former Albano protege and an AWF mainstay. "At times, the pressure would be almost unbearable. That's why I switched my loyalties to Jimmy Hart. He was just as devious, but at least you knew where you stood with him."

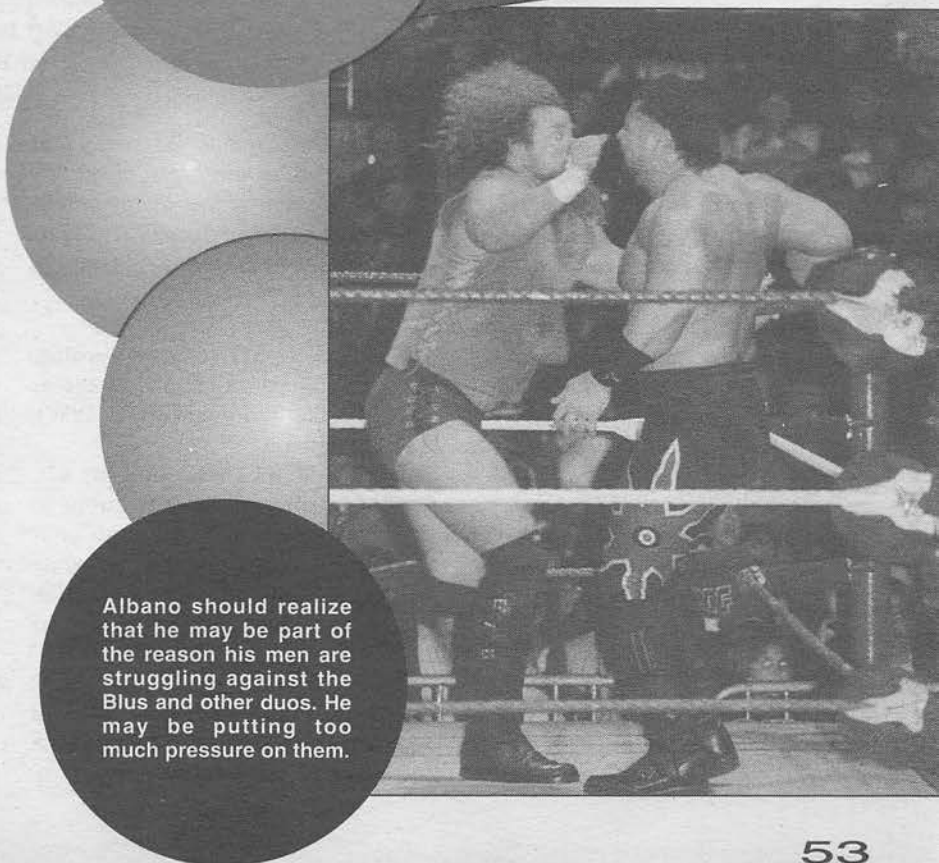
So while The Headshrinkers continue to falter on the WWF's wrestling stage, The Samoan Swat Team and Garvin are waiting in the wings. The hook may soon be coming out for Fatu and Sionne—a hook that will be held by Albano. The "understudies" might soon get their opportunity.

Wrestling's "Guiding Light" says that he has seen the light. His past is just that—the past. However, when a manager or wrestler is in a rut, he tends to incorporate more of what made him successful in the first place. Seventeen WWF World tag team titles are nothing to sneeze at. No matter what kind of tactics Capt. Lou Albano uses, he is a success story. Right now, The Headshrinkers need guidance, not threats, if they ever hope to be dominant again. An intelligent manager like Albano should be part of the solution to their problems.

He shouldn't be the problem. □



Samu drives Adams into the mat. It's ironic that the Captain is considering him as a replacement for one of the current 'Shrinkers. It was Albano who recruited Sionne to replace him last year.



Albano should realize that he may be part of the reason his men are struggling against the Blus and other duos. He may be putting too much pressure on them.

The telephone wires sizzle each month, as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. Here's the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to feel the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off ... One On One

**F**OR THOSE OF you who think that Bob Backlund running for President of the United States is an off-the-wall idea, we present the following examples of extreme politics: Washington, D.C., Mayor Marion Barry was elected after serving a prison sentence for possession of cocaine, and Col. Oliver North ran for the U.S. Senate despite his record as a proven liar.

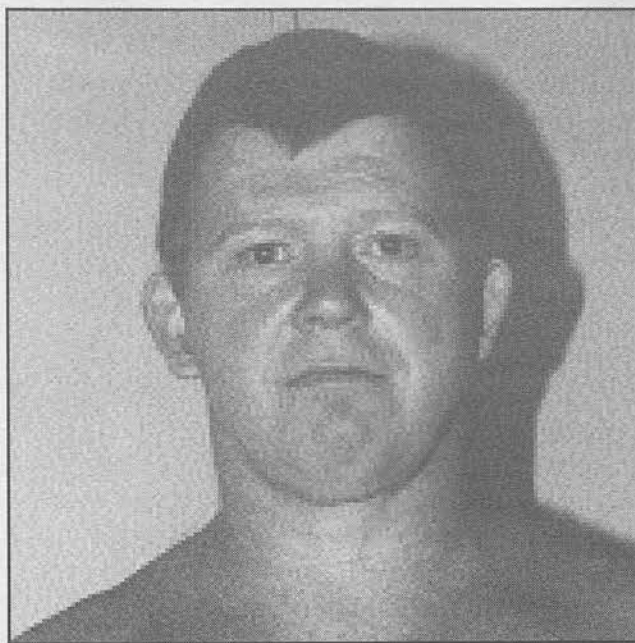
Backlund already has an advantage over certain other presidential candidates. As a professional wrestler in the WWF, he often uses as television as a forum to discuss his ideas. Backlund took time during the WWF's King of the Ring pay-per-view to tour Philadelphia and spread his somewhat off-beat views.

But some people don't think his views are all that off-beat. With no foreign policy platform or political experience to draw upon, Backlund is concentrating on domestic issues. He wants to dismantle the welfare system, improve public education, stop the issuance of condoms in public schools, make prison life tougher for hardened criminals, and abolish rock 'n' roll music. He hasn't expressed his views on abortion or the death penalty, but we can guess where he stands on those issues. Backlund is further to the right than House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

Unfortunately for Backlund, it's doubtful that he'll ever find his way onto the ballot. He doesn't have the backing of a major political party, and it will be nearly impossible for him to get the signatures needed to get a spot on the ballot. For now, Mr. Backlund is a fringe candidate.

But that doesn't mean we can't dream. In this special edition of "One On One," we've set up a fictional meeting between Backlund and

# ONE O



**"This country is full of good-for-nothing money-grubbers who've never contributed anything to society and never will until they get a job!"**

**—Mr. Bob Backlund**

*President Bill Clinton. We stress that this conversation never took place. It's merely a figment of our imaginations. And an entertaining figment it was as wrestler met President ... "One On One."*

**BILL CLINTON:** Good evening, Bob. It's indeed an honor to have as our guest the two-time former WWF World champion.

**BOB BACKLUND:** Call me Mr. Backlund, and you're not going to score any points with me with your compliments. This country has some serious problems, and the way I see it, you haven't done anything to correct them.

**BC:** I must disagree. Great gains have been made since I've been in office. The economy is in better shape than it's been in a long time. There are

more homeowners in the U.S. than ever, and interest rates are falling. We've put into place trade laws that make the global marketplace more attractive to United States business. People are working again; cities are growing.

**BB:** All you're talking about is a lot of periphery issues that have nothing to do with the real problems of this country. The most egregious problems in the United States of America are crime, education, drug abuse, welfare, and rock 'n' roll music? Drugs are wiping out our cities. Children are suffering and nobody's doing anything about it. You know why I can be a good President, Mr. President? Because I can sit on my butt and do nothing, too.

**BC:** Believe me, I feel the pain of every person who wakes up without a

# N ONE



**"That's not very compassionate of you, Mr. Backlund. You know, I've always believed that this is a country of compassionate people!"**  
**—President Bill Clinton**

job to go to. We're working on it, but it's not easy to find solutions.

**BB:** Solutions are easy. Action is tough. I have solutions and now we need actions to end the problems that are having a deleterious effect on every American citizen. What do you plan to do about welfare, Mr. President?

**BC:** I agree with you that welfare is a problem ...

**BB:** Do not patronize me! This country is full of good-for-nothing money-grubbers who've never contributed anything to society and never will until they get a job! Why should I work 70 hours a week to support somebody who hasn't worked in five years?

**BC:** Some of what you say is correct, Mr. Backlund, but what do you intend to do to correct the problems?

**BB:** It's easy. Wipe out welfare and all social programs.

**BC:** Just like that?

**BB:** That's right. Some people can't swim unless they're drowning. Then they certainly discover how to swim. Same thing with poor people. Get them drowning and then they'll swim.

**BC:** That's not very compassionate of you, Mr. Backlund. You know, I've always believed that this is a country of compassionate people!

**BB:** Compassion is deleterious to the progress of this great nation! We have all this compassion for children, giving them these long vacations during the summer when they could be in school learning more and maybe moving ahead of the Japanese. How can we make any progress when we're wasting so much time?

**BC:** Year-round schooling is a solution that has been offered to the problem of overcrowding ...

**BB:** Year-round schooling has nothing to do with overcrowding. It has to do with education. Educate children and they'll find jobs instead of committing crimes. An idol mind is the devil's workshop, Mr. President.

**BC:** Yes, I've heard the saying and there's some validity to it, but children need some free time to play and do other things.

**BB:** Like what, listen to rock 'n' roll and rap music? Have you ever seen some of those rock lyrics, Mr. President? They're obscene! They're unfit for young minds. I hope you don't let your daughter listen to that garbage!

**BC:** We can't sanction censorship. There are First Amendment rights in this country that must be protected. The Bill of Rights is the cornerstone of our great civilization, and if we start delegating what's decent and what's obscene, then we'll really have some problems.

**BB:** Can't be worse than they are now. Criminals running in the streets because we let them out early. Prisons that are more like country clubs than labor camps. Children who can't read and write. Parents who don't work. Condoms distributed in schools. It's disgusting! It's deleterious to everyone!

**BC:** Perhaps there'll be a time for us to sit down and discuss some solutions.

**BB:** I gave you solutions! Now you're going to have to deal with me, Mr. President. The American people want Mr. Backlund for President!

**BC:** Good luck.

**BB:** I don't need luck.

**BC:** Before we conclude this discussion, Mr. Backlund, I must tell you that my daughter, Chelsea, is a big fan and would be thrilled to have your autograph.

**BB:** Can she recite the names of the Presidents in order? No autographs for kids if they don't know their Presidents! Where is she? Where's the brat?

**BC:** I'm sorry, but she's in bed.

**BB:** Well, there'll be no autographs for her. Forget it! I'm leaving! □

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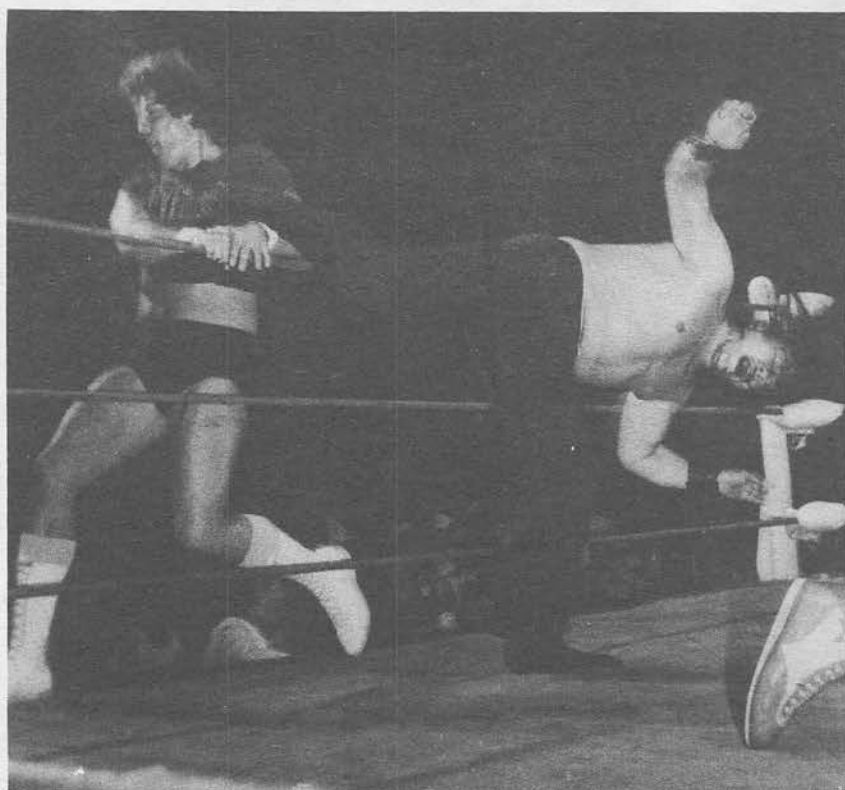
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# Kabuki-Adams

(Continued from page 28)



Kabuki pivots on his left foot and sends a karate thrust directly into the throat of Gino Hernandez. Gino is concerned that Adams' obsession with Kabuki will lead to his and Chris' demise as the World Class tag team champions.

kick contest, and the action is as fast-paced and violent as in the match that took place four days earlier. The major difference being that Adams no longer possessed the World Class American title, having lost it to Iceman Parsons the day after his July 4 encounter with Kabuki.

Every few moments, Gino would walk quickly to the dressing room door that leads to the path heading to the ring. Once there, he could catch a glimpse of the action in the ring. When he returned to his dressing room, he wasn't happy.

"I didn't want Chris to take this match tonight," Gino said. "July 4 was bad enough, but this is getting out of hand. This feud already cost Chris the American title; I don't want to be dragged down by it. We've got to concentrate on our tag team matches, and this is going to hurt us if we keep going on this way."

Adams and Hernandez captured the

World Class tag team belts on June 24 from Bobby Fulton and Tommy Rogers, but Adams' matches with Kabuki overshadowed the team's title defenses in the days following that victory.

Gino paced back to the door and looked toward the ring. In an instant, a look of shock and horror crossed his face. "That damn . . ." Gino was off like a shot, running toward the ring to bail out Adams, who was in bad trouble from Kabuki's vicious martial arts attack.

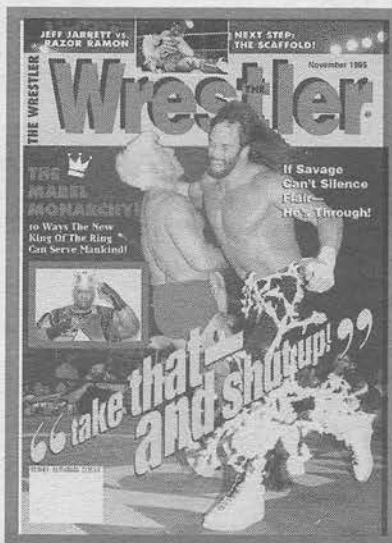
As soon as Gino jumped onto the ring apron, however, Kabuki cracked him in the chest with a karate thrust.

It was a bad night for the World Class tag team champs: Both Hernandez and Adams had fallen to the power of Kabuki.

And minutes later, in the Kabuki-free safety of their dressing room, Hernandez and Adams were plotting their revenge. A new chapter in World Class wrestling history was just beginning. □

# This Month In...

## Wrestler

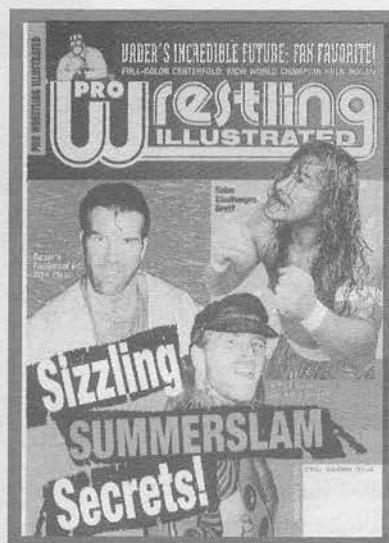


Years ago, **RIC FLAIR** infuriated **RANDY SAVAGE** by going after his wife, **ELIZABETH**. This year, he attacked his father. The "Nature Boy" now has some dirt on Savage that could embarrass him and maybe end his career. Savage must shut him up in the ring—now! ... Why are **RAZOR RAMON** and **JEFF JARRETT** now talking about wrestling in scaffold matches? ... **HULK HOGAN** has found the man he thinks can lead "Hulkamania" into the 21st century. He wants to pass the torch to **THE RENEGADE?!**

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## Sincerely Yours

(Continued from page 5)

wrestling and pursue his dreams. I'd love to see him get his head caved in by Mike Tyson.

CARL LYKENS  
Chicago

### THE REAL WINNERS

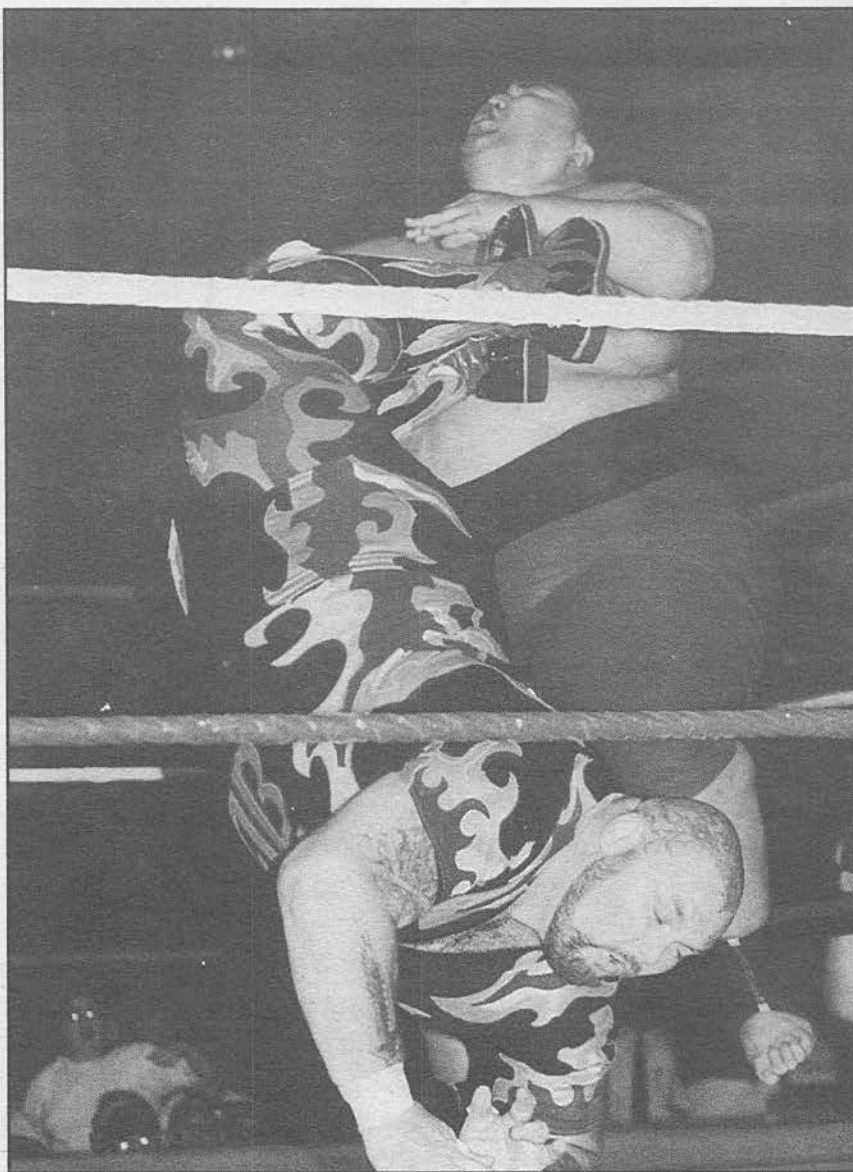
The real winners at WrestleMania XI were the fans ("WrestleMania XI: The Winners And Losers!" August 1995). For years, WrestleMania has been the biggest and best wrestling event of the year. This year, that great tradition continued. It didn't really matter to me who won the matches, though, because we the fans were treated to some of the best action in a long time.

I understand that some people think that all of the celebrities take away from the card, but I think their involvement shows that professional wrestling can transcend the boundaries between the mat sport, other sports, and the entertainment world. Okay, maybe Pamela Anderson strutting to the ring with Diesel had no real purpose. To me, it's all just good public relations to ensure that professional wrestling will continue to thrive.

CINDY RANIER  
Tulsa, OK

### LEARNED LESSON

Bam Bam Bigelow learned the hard way that you have to pay your dues before you get anywhere ("Hotseat," August 1995). At least he was smart enough to learn something from his embarrassing lesson—the loss to Lawrence Taylor at Wrestle-



Bam Bam Bigelow catches Yokozuna with a dropkick. Reader Jerry Tyler is glad the "Beast From The East" has been able to put his embarrassing loss to Lawrence Taylor behind him.

Mania XI. Most wrestlers just fall from the good grace of the larger federations and then spend eternity touring every little independent promotion.

Instead, since that humiliation, Bigelow has made himself a better wrestler. Now that he's a fan favorite and teaming with Diesel, he has become one of the hottest stars in the WWF. With his new-

found popularity, Bigelow should be able to easily defeat every member of Ted DiBiase's Corporation. When he's through with DiBiase and his crew, those guys will be lucky if they're still in the WWF. DiBiase will curse himself for giving up on Bam Bam so soon.

JERRY TYLER  
Erie, PA □

## On The Road

(Continued from page 10)

1991 World Series involving his Atlanta Braves, CBS cameras showed us a shot of Turner in his box seat ... sleeping.

Turner has decided that he can nap no longer in managing a wrestling promotion that should be doing much better in the ledger books. Although my publisher will never publicly admit this, because his job is to fairly cover all of wrestling, the perception of WCW is that it is second to the WWF in the same fashion that Sham was second to Secretariat in the 1973 Belmont Stakes.

Turner's desire to get to the top is admirable, but he must acknowledge and respect the obstacles that are blocking his path. It is very hard to unseat a television mainstay. *60 Minutes* has ruled its Sunday evening slot for as long as I can remember.

It's not like the other networks are airing infomercials in the Monday night slot, either. Fox has a tremendous prime-time lead-in at 8 p.m. with *Melrose Place*. CBS counters with *Murphy Brown*, and for 18 weeks in the fall—when networks are trying to attract viewers and win sweeps periods with new shows—ABC dominates the ratings with a program called *Monday Night Football*, which just happens to be the most popular spectator sport in this country.

McMahon drew raves nearly three years ago for changing the format of his prime-time wrestling

program, giving it a you-are-there feel with its spontaneity and high-quality production. He has softened it somewhat, as *Raw* is not live as much as it used to be. If Turner believes his network can produce a comparable show, then he knows something about his off-

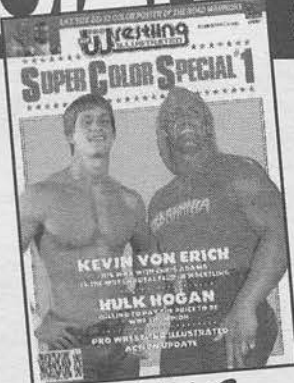


Most wrestling fans have gotten accustomed to seeing matches like Diesel vs. Jeff Jarrett on Monday nights. Ted Turner hopes many will be willing to switch from WWF *Monday Night Raw* to WCW's new Monday night show.

screen talent that we don't. The folks at WCW have consistently come up embarrassingly short in developing programs that target the mainstream wrestling fan while forcing the channel surfer to stop twitching his thumb.

If Turner's goal is to supplant McMahon as the dominant wrestling federation, he cannot afford to lose this showdown. He can't save face with a time-limit draw, either. Only a convincing pinfall victory in the ratings is acceptable. Anything less will permanently stamp WCW as the weak sister and deprive Turner of what he desires most—power. □

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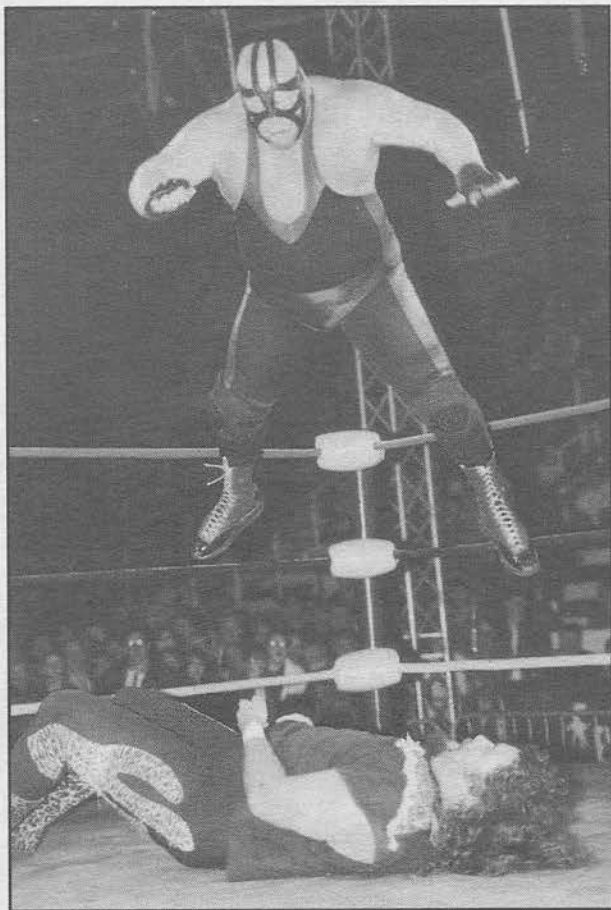
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## Behind the Door

(Continued from page 12)



Cactus Jack knows a little about getting crushed by Vader. He offered some advice on how to deal with pain to the ailing Dave Rosenbaum, but it wasn't the kind of advice Rosenbaum wanted.

him I was playing in the line of duty—for a column.

"Well, here's another column for you," he said, not realizing how right he was. "Journalist is about to become a cripple because he played one-on-one with a 450-pound wrestler!"

"Oh, and I forgot one other thing," I added. "I played doubles tennis with Harlem Heat."

"What else did you do?" he asked. "Go bungee jumping without a rope? Play one-on-one football with Lawrence Taylor?"

Interesting idea, but I didn't, and I won't.

Actually, if there's one lesson these two sporting outings taught me, it's to never to listen to your publisher and never challenge the athletes you're covering. I remember a few years ago when I was covering a minor league hockey team in upstate New York. I jokingly asked the coach, Butch Goring, if he'd mind me playing goal in practice one day.

"I wouldn't mind," Butch said. "And I'm sure the players wouldn't mind, either."

Translation: They all wanted a free shot at me.

Big Van Vader got his shot and

took it. I took my shots to the concrete and ended up the chiropractor's office.

All of this goes to prove that journalists are journalists and athletes are athletes. Sometimes athletes become journalists after they retire, and journalists like to play ball with out-of-shape journalists, but never should the two sides meet in the ring, on the court, or on the field.

When I got back from Atlanta, my wife took one look at my black eye and reddened cheek and said, "I told you not to go down there." I explained to her what

happened in Atlanta, and she actually showed some sympathy. It's been at least a day since she nagged me about getting a haircut.

I decided to call Cactus Jack to find out if he had any special cures or treatments for Vader-inflicted injuries.

"Are you kidding, man?" he said. "I've had doctors look at my neck and back after I wrestled Vader and just laugh. They'd tell me, if I'm stupid enough to keep getting in the ring with him night after night, then I should figure out how to treat myself. They'd say they were tired of patching my carcass back together. But I do know this crazy witch doctor in New Mexico who can cure what ails you, man. What he does is ..."

I cut him off right there. Thanks, but no thanks, Jack. I'll stick with my chiropractor for now.

Two days later, the bruises were gone, but the back still hurt. I could type and cook dinner, but that's about it. A few days after that, I saw Vader at the Bash, and he just laughed at me. Later Sting walked up to me and said, "Hey, Bash at the Beach is in California this year. Didn't you say you wanted to go surfing with me and Hulk?"

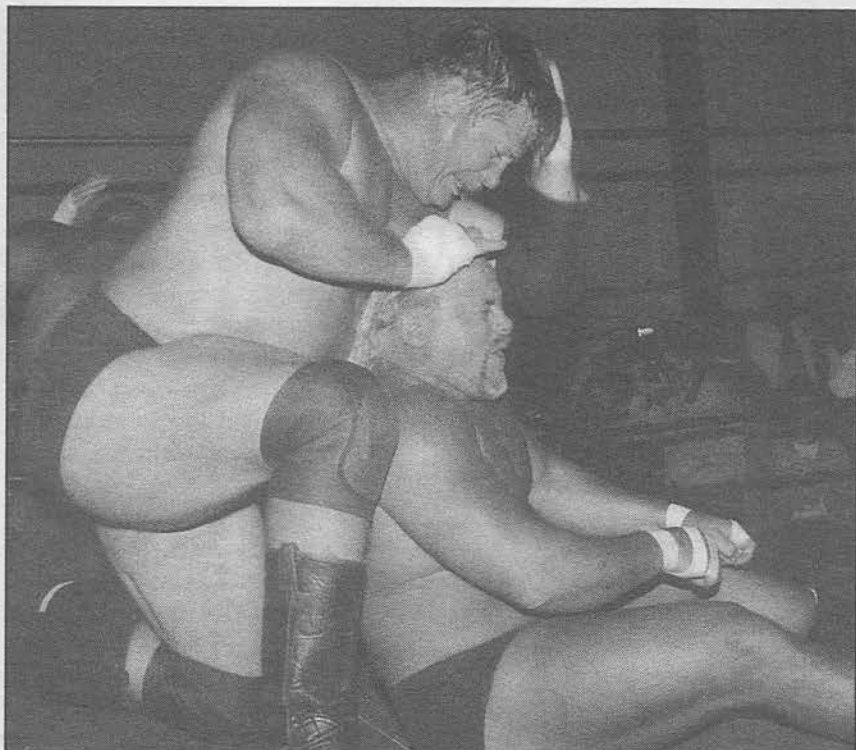
I did say that, didn't I?

Well, surfing's a non-contact sport, unless you count 15-foot waves splashing against your body as contact. Or unless you count the surfboard bouncing up and hitting you in the face as contact.

Maybe my chiropractor does, but I don't. Heck, let him play with the gators. I'm going to Big Sur. □

## The Insider

(Continued from page 14)



The idea of being a spokesman for a line of skimpy men's underwear was actually pretty revolting to me at first. But leave it to a genius like Stan the Man to set me straight.

spent some time wooing his beautiful wife—but the stubborn Kiwi wouldn't accept my refusal.

"If you won't listen to me, then I have someone here I want you to talk to," he insisted.

"Ellner, Stan Hansen here!," said Stan Hansen.

What the hell Stan Hansen was doing in New Zealand, let alone drinking scotch whiskey at three in the afternoon in New Zealand with Glenn Jameson? But what followed did nothing less than shatter my world.

"This underwear thing ain't a bad idea," Hansen said. "It pays a bloody king's ransom, you stupid fool."

The keys to Fort Knox could not compel me to shill men's underwear, and I tried to tell Hansen this.

"What the hell are you so damn high and mighty for?" he shouted. "Someone wants to pay you cash to prance around in some underwear? When you gonna make easier money than that?"

I told Stu Saks about the offer.

"Take it!" he screamed. "Are you crazy? All that money, plus you'll get an exclusive on Hansen."

The omens are as clear as the eczema on Apter's rather barren scalp. There is a brave new world of journalism out there, and I can no longer operate within its parameters. The editorial environment here is not healthy for me. I am not passing judgments, pointing fingers, or making accusations. I'm no preacher. But clearly a line has been crossed that makes my

stomach turn faster than a figure skater on speed.

I will honor all contracts. I will deliver all work that is due. But I'm working here on borrowed time. Today it's modeling underwear. Tomorrow they'll insist I run a puff piece on a fan favorite. Next week they'll want me to pose in my underwear with the fan favorite.

It ain't for me.

"Listen, Hansen," I said when I called back later that day. "I think you're a mutt who'd do anything for a free meal. You should be ashamed of yourself."

"Shame don't pay the bills or feed the kiddies," Hansen responded. "If you have a problem with something, don't lay it on me. And you ever call me a mutt again and I'll bite your face right off your head."

I called the one man I thought might restore my faith.

"Hey, Vader," I asked of Big Van Vader. "Would you sell underwear?"

"How much you offering?" he replied. "Would they pay Flair to do it, too?"

I'm flattered by the offer. Really I am. And I don't hold it against the wrestlers who cash in like athletes in other sports. They don't get much mainstream publicity these days. They deserve all they can get. But something isn't right. Maybe it's time too re-evaluate things a bit. Take a break. Reflect.

Message to Liz Hunter: I'm gonna miss ya, babe, but we'll always have Memphis. If you're ever in town, look me up. I'll always be in the book. □

## On Assignment

(Continued from page 16)

Bash at the Beach match. Or at least corner Pamela Anderson (not an easy thing to do with that bust), and see if there was any truth to the rumor she and Shawn Michaels were hot and heavy.

Alas, *Baywatch* must have had the day off, although there was plenty of commotion around the Venice basketball courts. I skated over to investigate when who should I see besieged by hungry autograph-seekers than the new WCW U.S. champion.

"Hey, Liz!" Sting shouted over the dozens of beseeching heads. "Wait up. I need some help."

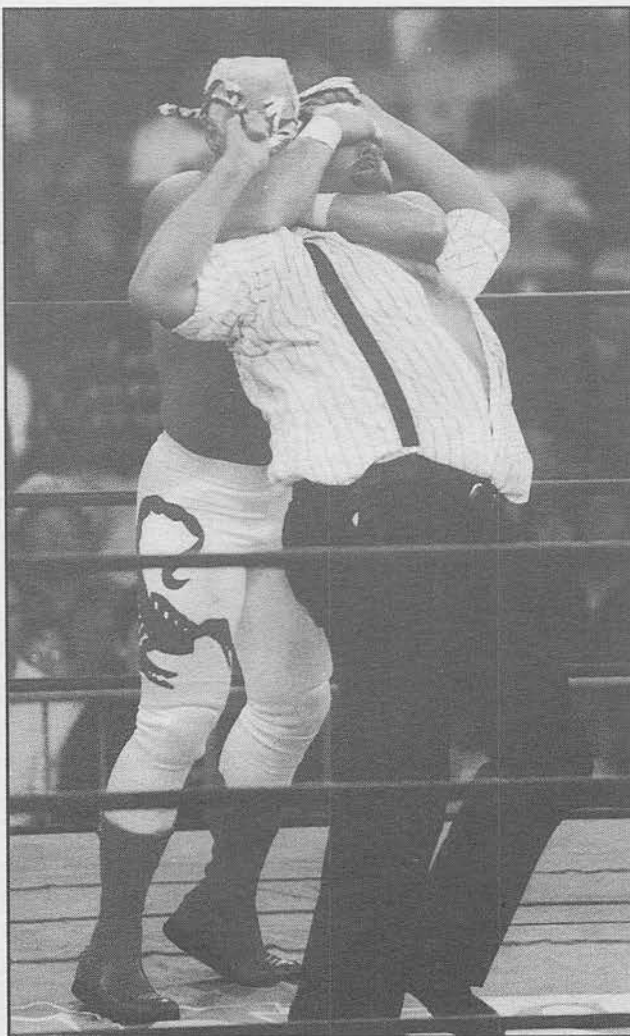
We repaired to Van Gogh's Ear and split the Yoko Ono, a tasty platter of teriyaki chicken and rice. Sting was tan, fit, and clearly enjoying all the public attention.

"It's been a long time, hasn't it?" I asked. "It must be nice to be back on top."

"You can say that again," the Sting man responded. "I'm just near the top, not on it yet. I don't want to sound needy, but I need this. I need the attention. I admit it: I'm a better wrestler when the fans and I are in synch."

I wondered if that was residue from spending so much time around the king of all fan sponges, Hulk Hogan.

"Hogan and I have a few problems," Sting said. "There's definitely an ego thing happening between us. But in his heart, he is a good man. He takes a lot, and



The first part of 1995 was not kind to Sting. He lost to Big Bubba Rogers at WCW Uncensored in March and struggled to get out of a slump. Now he has his eye on the World title, but he won't pursue it while Hulk Hogan is champ.

he needs a lot, but he also gives a lot. You have to be around 'Hulkamania' to understand the kind of constant pressure he's under. I have respect for the man, even if he has what I want. I just don't want to go through him to get it!"

So the U.S. title is just a steppingstone?

"Of course it is," he answered. "It's good to get a strap around my waist. It's a reminder of how good it feels, and it's payback for the fans who've supported me during

the recent lean months. I felt I had let them down. This one's for them.

"But the real prize is the belt around Hogan's waist. I've been WCW World champion before. Anything less than that is unacceptable."

Does Sting think he has a chance of a title match as long as Hogan's champion?

"I never put any pressure on the federation to book it," he said. "Then one day, Nick Bockwinkel just called me into his office and told me the match was mine if I wanted it. But I turned it down. Me and Hulk should be working together ... at least for now. We control the top two titles in the federation. But there are days when I wish Vader would get lucky. If he does, I'll be there to avenge Hogan's honor."

Sting smiled the smile of a man who has returned from the abyss and knows it will never be that bad again.

"I'm back, Liz," he said.

"And no one will ever put me out again."

When I returned to Ellner's apartment, he was gone. A note was left. "When I come back, you shouldn't be here," it read. "That part of my life is over. Thank you for the ride. It was a beautiful thing we did."

Take care, Eddie.

That's all.

I slept for five dreamless hours on the flight back home to New York. Maybe the whole thing was just a dream. □

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**August 1990/Stories include:** Luger-Flair, Hogan, Warrior, Taylor.  
**September 1990/Stories include:** Hogan, Duggan, JYD, Adams, Horsemen.  
**October 1990/Stories include:** Sting, Legion of Doom, Bushwhackers, Gigante.  
**November 1990/Stories include:** Flair, Hogan, Vicious, Slaughter, Orients.  
**December 1990/Stories include:** Hogan, Sting, Kerry, Cornette, Zbyszko.  
**January 1991/Stories include:** LOD, Adams, Steiners, Lawler-Funk.  
**February 1991/Stories include:** Taylor, Hogan, Martel, Sting, all-annoying team.  
**March 1991/Stories include:** Hogan-Earthquake, Roberts-Martel, Sting.  
**April 1991/Stories include:** Flair-Sting, Steiners, Piper, Zbyszko, Slaughter.  
**May 1991/Stories include:** Savage-Warrior, Steiners, Sting, Virgil.  
**June 1991/Stories include:** Steiners, LOD, Koloff, I-C belt, Dundees.  
**July 1991/Stories include:** Hogan, Virgil, Funk, Nastys, Steiners, Spivey.  
**September 1991/Stories include:** Justice-Hogan, Hyatt, Rude, Hennig.  
**October 1991/Stories include:** Savage & Liz, Hogan & Warrior, Luger.  
**November 1991/Stories include:** Hogan-Savage, Luger, Flair, War Games.  
**December 1991/Stories include:** SummerSlam, York, Simmons.  
**January 1992/Stories include:** Sting, Freebirds, Hart, Rhodes, Rotundo.  
**February 1992/Stories include:** Luger, Hart, Patriot, Rude, Thesz-Rogers.  
**April 1992/Stories include:** Hart, Steiners, Liger-Pillman, Roberts.  
**May 1992/Stories include:** Justice-Hogan, Liger, Gilbert, Repo Man.  
**June 1992/Stories include:** Sting, Hogan, Race, M.A. Bagwell, Atlas.  
**August 1992/Stories include:** Savage-Flair, Jack-Badd, Christopher, LOD.

**September 1992/Stories include:** War Games, Hogan, Vader, Kamala.  
**October 1992/Stories include:** SummerSlam, Steiner-Muta, Simmons.  
**November 1992/Stories include:** Flair, Warrior, Vader, top rope rule.  
**December 1992/Stories include:** Flair, Ramon, Heavenly Bodies, Jarrett.  
**March 1993/Stories include:** Michaels, Nikita Koloff, Windham-Rhodes.  
**April 1993/Stories include:** WWF new blood, Sting-Vader, Flair, Paul E.  
**May 1993/Stories include:** WrestleMania IX analysis, Andre tribute, Muta.  
**June 1993/Stories include:** Doink, Vader-Sting, Jimmy Hart, Steiners, Lawler.  
**July 1993/Stories include:** Bravo, Gonzales, Bulldog, Ramon, Arn, Tatanka.  
**August 1993/Stories include:** Christopher-Michaels, Hogan-Yokozuna, Hart.  
**September 1993/Stories include:** Steiners, Slamboree, Ramon, Sting & Smith, Hart.  
**October 1993/Stories include:** SummerSlam preview, Money Inc., Nanny Simpson, Vader-Vicious, Hart-Lawler.  
**November 1993/Stories include:** Heavenly Bodies, Jannetty, Rude-Flair, Hogan, Luger, Power Bombs.  
**December 1993/Stories include:** Fytch, Austin, Luger, Sting & Flair, Yokozuna.  
**February 1994/Stories include:** Hogan, Duggan, Doinks, Blonds, holiday wishes.  
**March 1994/Stories include:** Nastys, Parker, Borge, 1994 predictions.  
**May 1994/Stories include:** Flair-Rude, Hart, Luger, Morton, Heenan-Bockwinkel.  
**June 1994/Stories include:** Steamboat, Snuka, Anthony, Bruise Bros., Blayze.  
**August 1994/Stories include:** Piper, Hogan, 911, Freebirds, rulebreakers.  
**September 1994/Stories include:** Nastys, Undertaker, Volkoff, Flair-Steamboat.  
**November 1994/Stories include:** DiBiase, Sting, Koloff, Diesel, Cactus-Sabu.  
**December 1994/Stories include:** Hogan, Bret, Rottens, Cactus, AAA midgets.  
**January 1995/Stories include:** Vader, Diesel & Razor, Hart, Luger, Sabu.

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# INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

## TOP 15

### 1—HULK HOGAN

(7) WCW World champion

### 2—DIESEL

(9) WWF World champion

### 3—STING

(1) U.S. heavyweight champion

### 4—RANDY SAVAGE

(10) No. 2 contender: WCW World title

### 5—SHAWN MICHAELS

(6) No. 4 contender: WWF World title

### 6—BRET HART

(2) No. 8 contender: WWF World title

### 7—JEFF JARRETT

(8) WWF Intercontinental champion

### 8—ADAM BOMB

(-) No. 3 contender: WWF World title

### 9—SAVIO VEGA

(5) No. 2 contender: WWF World title

### 10—THE SANDMAN

(13) ECW heavyweight champion

### 11—RIC FLAIR

(4) No. 5 contender: WCW World title

### 12—MABEL

(3) No. 7 contender: WWF World title

### 13—RAZOR RAMON

(11) No. 9 contender: WWF World title

### 14—THE RENEGADE

(12) WCW TV champion

### 15—THE UNDERTAKER

(14) No. 6 contender: WWF World title

## WCW

### 1—HULK HOGAN

(1) 275, Venice Beach, CA

### 2—STING

(2) 260, Venice Beach, CA

### 3—RANDY SAVAGE

(4) 237, Sarasota, FL

### 4—THE RENEGADE

(6) 256, parts unknown

### 5—BIG VAN VADER

(3) 450, Denver, CO

### 6—RIC FLAIR

(5) 243, Minneapolis, MN

### 7—MENG

(8) 294, Tonga

### 8—DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE

(-) 260, Tampa, FL

### 9—KAMALA

(15) 345, Uganda

### 10—PAUL ORNDORFF

(10) 253, Brandon, FL

### 11—HACKSAW DUGGAN

(12) 280, Glens Falls, NY

### 12—ALEX WRIGHT

(7) 222, Berlin, Germany

### 13—SGT. CRAIG PITTMAN

(-) 270, Freeport, NY

### 14—ARN ANDERSON

(9) 249, Minneapolis, MN

### 15—BRIAN PILLMAN

(11) 226, Cincinnati, OH

## WWF

### 1—DIESEL

(1) 356, Las Vegas, NV

### 2—JEFF JARRETT

(2) 230, Nashville, TN

### 3—SAVIO VEGA

(5) 268, San Juan, Puerto Rico

### 4—ADAM BOMB

(15) 292, Harrisburg, PA

### 5—SHAWN MICHAELS

(6) 234, San Antonio, TX

### 6—BAM BAM BIGELOW

(9) 368, Mt. Laurel, NJ

### 7—SID VICIOUS

(8) 318, West Memphis, AR

### 8—MABEL

(3) 503, Harlem, NY

### 9—BRET HART

(4) 234, Calgary, Alberta

### 10—JEAN-PIERRE LAFITTE

(13) 255, Montreal, Quebec

### 11—THE UNDERTAKER

(7) 328, parts unknown

### 12—MAN MOUNTAIN ROCK

(14) 350, Iowa City, IA

### 13—RAZOR RAMON

(10) 287, Miami, FL

### 14—TATANKA

(12) 250, Pembroke, NC

### 15—BOB HOLLY

(11) 231, Talladega, AL

## MOST POPULAR

### 1—SHAWN MICHAELS

Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular

### 2—HULK HOGAN

Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular

### 3—STING

Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular

### 4—DIESEL

Last issue: No. 4 Most Popular

### 5—BRET HART

Last issue: No. 5 Most Popular

### 6—RAZOR RAMON

Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular

### 7—BAM BAM BIGELOW

Last issue: No. 8 Most Popular

### 8—THE UNDERTAKER

Last issue: No. 6 Most Popular

### 9—RANDY SAVAGE

Last issue: No. 9 Most Popular

### 10—SAVIO VEGA

Last issue: No. 13 Most Popular

### 11—LEX LUGER

Last issue: No. 10 Most Popular

### 12—TOMMY DREAMER

Last issue: unrated

### 13—DAN SEVERN

Last issue: unrated

### 14—CACTUS JACK

Last issue: unrated

### 15—DAVEY BOY SMITH

Last issue: No. 12 Most Popular

## MOST HATED

### 1—SID VICIOUS

Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated

### 2—BOB BACKLUND

Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated

### 3—JERRY LAWLER

Last issue: No. 4 Most Hated

### 4—JEFF JARRETT

Last issue: No. 5 Most Hated

### 5—KEVIN SULLIVAN

Last issue: No. 15 Most Hated

### 6—RIC FLAIR

Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated

### 7—MABEL

Last issue: No. 6 Most Hated

### 8—MENG

Last issue: unrated

### 9—KAMA

Last issue: No. 8 Most Hated

### 10—ARN ANDERSON

Last issue: No. 9 Most Hated

### 11—TATANKA

Last issue: No. 13 Most Hated

### 12—OWEN HART

Last issue: No. 14 Most Hated

### 13—IAN ROTTEN

Last issue: unrated

### 14—HAKUSHI

Last issue: No. 7 Most Hated

### 15—BUDDY LANDELL

Last issue: No. 12 Most Hated

## TOP 15 TAG TEAMS

### 1—HARLEM HEAT

(4) WCW World tag team champions

### 2—OWEN HART & YOKOZUNA

(1) WWF World tag team champions

### 3—THE NASTY BOYS

(5) No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title

### 4—LEX LUGER & DAVEY BOY SMITH

(3) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title

### 5—TONY ANTHONY & TRACEY SMOTHERS

(-) USWA tag team champions

### 6—RAVEN & STEVE RICHARDS

(-) ECW tag team champions

### 7—PG-13

(9) No. 1 contenders: USWA tag title

### 8—BUNKHOUSE BUCK & DICK SLATER

(2) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title

### 9—BOBBY EATON & LORD STEVEN REGAL

(10) No. 3 contenders: WCW World tag title

### 10—PUBLIC ENEMY

(7) No. 1 contenders: ECW tag title

### 11—THE GANGSTAS

(-) No. 2 contenders: ECW tag title

### 12—THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS

(6) No. 1 contenders: Smoky Mountain tag title

### 13—MEN ON A MISSION

(11) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title

### 14—THE SMOKIN' GUNNS

(12) No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title

### 15—ELI & JACOB BLU

(13) No. 4 contenders: WWF world tag title

*These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue... "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices ... Championships highlighted in bold on the "Roll Call Of Champions" have changed hands since our previous issue ... The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.*

**For period ended July 21, 1995**

## ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

**ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** DAN KROFFAT & DOUG FURNAS  
(September 9, 1993; from The Patriot & The Eagle; Omiya, Japan)

**ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION:** MITSU HARU MISAWA  
(May 26, 1995; from Stan Hansen; Sapporo, Japan)

**ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** DAN KROFFAT  
(July 12, 1994; from Masanobu Fuchi; Kagoshima, Japan)

**ALL-JAPAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** MITSU HARU MISAWA & KENTA KOBASHI  
(December 10, 1994; beat Johnny Ace & Steve Williams in tournament final; Tokyo, Japan)

**ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION:** MITSU HARU MISAWA  
(May 26, 1995; from Stan Hansen; Sapporo, Japan)

**ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S ALL-PACIFIC CHAMPION:** MINAMI TOYOTA  
(August 24, 1994; beat Yoko Inoue; Tokyo, Japan)

**ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION:** KAORU ITO  
(May 4, 1994; beat Rie Tamada in tournament final; Toda, Japan)

**ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION:** AJA KONG  
(November 26, 1992; from Bull Nakano; Kawasaki, Japan)

**ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** CANDY OKUTSU  
(December 6, 1993; from Chapparita Asari; Osaka, Japan)

**ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** MINAMI TOYOTA & TOSHIYO YAMADA  
(December 6, 1993; from Dynamite Kansai & Mayumi Ozaki; Osaka, Japan)

**ALL-STATE WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** E.F. HUTTON  
(May 25, 1995; from Tony Prichard; Alcoa, TN)

**ALL-STATE WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** KEITH & GREG HART  
(June 15, 1995; from The Intimidators; Alcoa, TN)

**AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** T. RANTULA  
(March 26, 1994; from Rip Sawyer; Johnsonburg, PA)

**AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** LORD ZOLTAN  
(October 1, 1994; from Johnny Graham; Lewistown, PA)

**ECW HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** THE SANDMAN  
(April 15, 1995; from Shane Douglas; Philadelphia, PA)

**ECW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** RAVEN & STEVE RICHARDS  
(June 30, 1995; from Public Enemy; Jim Thorpe, PA)

**ECW TELEVISION CHAMPION:** EDDY GUERRERO  
(April 8, 1995; from 2 Cold Scorpio; Philadelphia, PA)

**FLORIDA WRESTLING COUNCIL HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** BUTCH LONG  
(January 6, 1995; from Navy Seal; Tampa, FL)

**ICW HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** MARC ASH  
(February 2, 1995; from Mike Majors; Plymouth, NC)

**IWC HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** KONNAN  
(April 2, 1994; from Cien Caras; Reynosa, Mexico)

**IWGP CHAMPION:** THE GREAT MUTA  
(May 3, 1995; from Shinya Hashimoto; Fukuoka, Japan)

**IWGP JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** KOJI KANEMOTO  
(June 14, 1995; from Sabu; Tokyo, Japan)

**MID-EASTERN WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:**  
**CORPORAL PUNISHMENT**  
(March 26, 1995; from Mad Dog O'Malley; Essex, MD)

**MID-EASTERN WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**  
**MAD DOG O'MALLEY & JOE THUNDER**  
(July 8, 1995; from Michael Sweet & Rockin' Rebel; Annapolis, MD)

**MIDWEST TERRITORIAL WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** MARTY JANNETTY  
(May 20, 1995; from Bruiser Bedlam; Taylor, MI)

**MIDWEST TERRITORIAL WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** RAY ROBERTS & AL SNOW  
(January 21, 1995; from Chris Carter & Mohammad Saad; Taylor, MI)

**NWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** DAN SEVERN  
(February 24, 1995; from Chris Candido; Erlanger, KY)

**OZARK MOUNTAIN WRESTLING NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION:** THE COLORADO KID  
(April 10, 1995; from Cactus Jack; Jonesboro, AR)

**PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION:** MITSU HARU MISAWA  
(May 26, 1995; from Stan Hansen; Sapporo, Japan)

**PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**  
MITSU HARU MISAWA & KENTA KOBASHI  
(December 10, 1994; beat Johnny Ace & Steve Williams in tournament final; Tokyo, Japan)

**POWER ZONE WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** BONECRUSHER STEVE  
(January 15, 1995; from Psycho; Moore, OK)

**PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** STAR RYDER  
(June 3, 1995; from Terry Austin; Albemarle, NC)

**PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** TERRY AUSTIN & AUSTIN STEELE  
(June 9, 1995; from Damage Inc.; Hamlet, NC)

**SMOKY MOUNTAIN HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** TITLE HELD UP  
(Most recently held by Buddy Landell)

**SMOKY MOUNTAIN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** TONY ANTHONY & TRACEY SMOTHERS  
(July 6, 1995; from Al Snow & Unibomb; Jellico, TN)

**TRI-STAR WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** RICHIE DYE  
(January 13, 1995; won battle royal for vacant title; Rossville, GA)

**TRI-STAR WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** KEITH HART & CHRIS STEELHEART  
(January 6, 1995; from Roger Sartain & Jimmy Sharpe; Rossville, GA)

**USWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** JERRY LAWLER  
(May 1, 1995; from Razor Ramon; Memphis, TN)

**USWA SOUTHERN CHAMPION:** BILLY JACK HAYNES  
(June 26, 1995; from Brian Christopher; Memphis, TN)

**USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** PG-13  
(July 10, 1995; from The Rock 'n' Roll Express; Memphis, TN)

**WCW TELEVISION CHAMPION:** THE RENEGADE  
(June 18, 1995; from Arn Anderson; Dayton, OH)

**WCW U.S. CHAMPION:** STING  
(June 18, 1995; beat Meng in tournament final; Dayton, OH)

**WCW WORLD CHAMPION:** HULK HOGAN  
(July 17, 1994; from Ric Flair; Orlando, FL)

**WCW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** HARLEM HEAT  
(June 24, 1995; from The Nasty Boys; Orlando, FL)

**WORLD WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** CHRIS EVANS  
(June 3, 1995; title previously held up; Clementon, NJ)

**WORLD WRESTLING ALLIANCE TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** BAD ATTITUDE  
(June 3, 1995; from Doomsday Express; Clementon, NJ)

**WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION:** JEFF JARRETT  
(May 21, 1995; from Razor Ramon; Trois-Rivières, Quebec)

**WWF WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION:** ALUNDRA BLAYZE  
(April 3, 1995; from Bull Nakano; Poughkeepsie, NY)

**WWF WORLD CHAMPION:** DIESEL  
(November 26, 1994; from Bob Backlund; New York, NY)

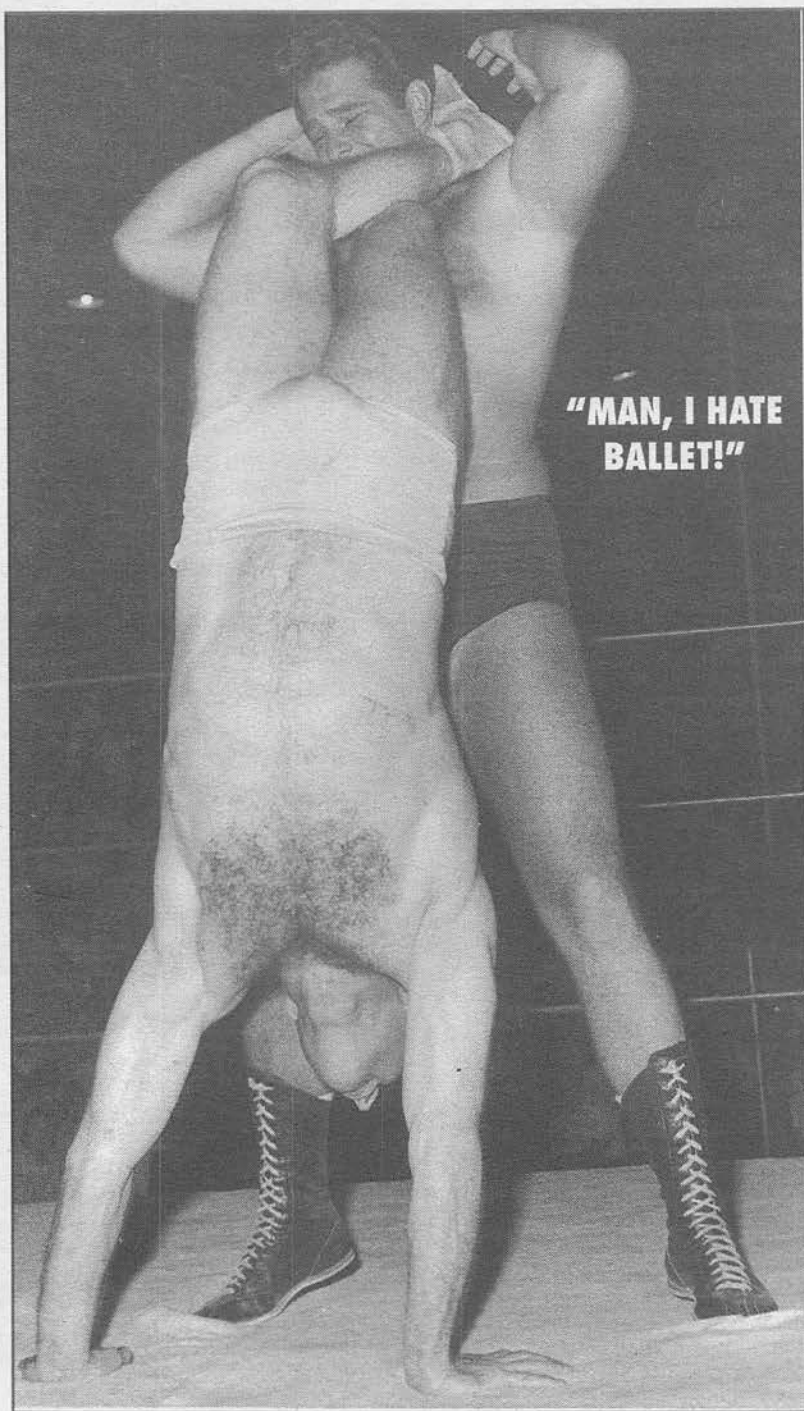
**WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** OWEN HART & YOKOZUNA  
(April 2, 1995; from The Smokin' Gunns; Hartford, CT)

# BLAST FROM THE PAST

## This Month In Wrestling History

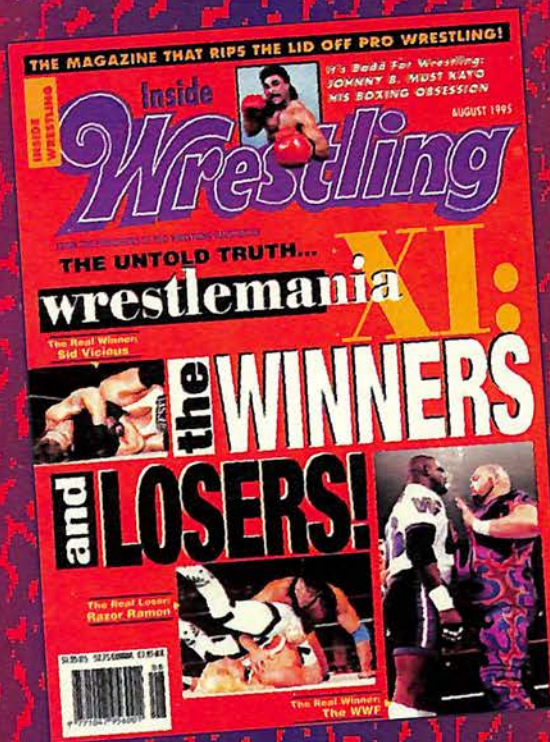
### **RICKI STARR vs. MARK LEWIN October 1957**

What grace ...  
what poise ...  
what balance ...  
that Ricki Starr  
sure had it all,  
didn't he? And how  
did Starr become  
so graceful? How  
else—he took bal-  
let. If you thought  
Alex Wright's pre-  
match and post-  
match dancing  
and gyrating was  
annoying, you  
should have seen  
Starr. He wore bal-  
let slippers instead  
of wrestling boots  
and sometimes  
threw them to the  
fans at ringside.  
Lewin wasn't the  
only rulebreaker  
who couldn't stand  
him or his tactics!



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